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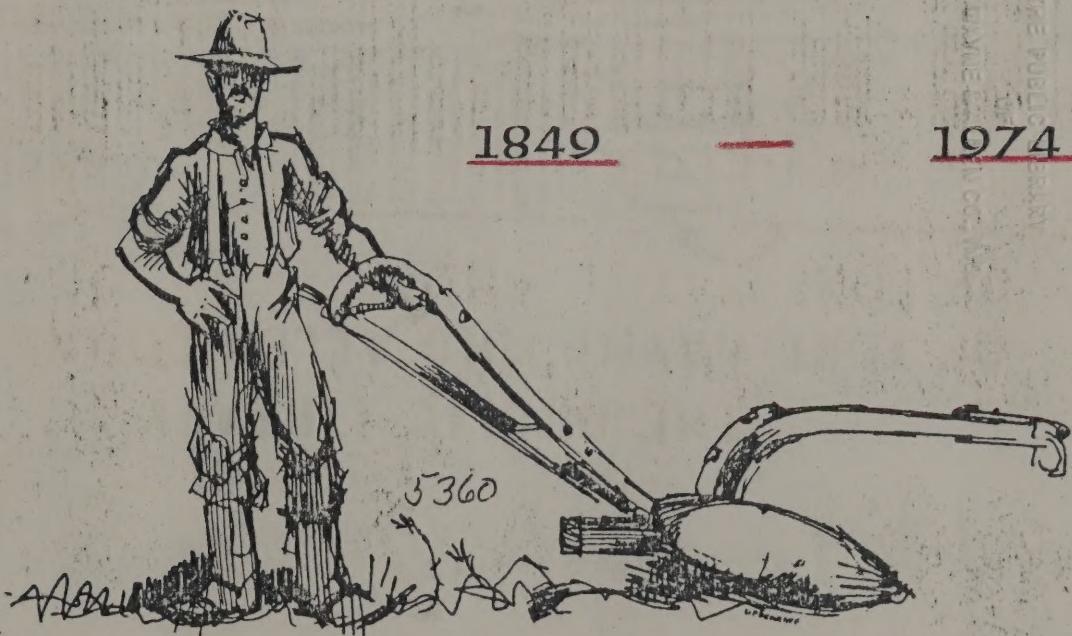






# History of West Union, Iowa

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## 125th Jubilee

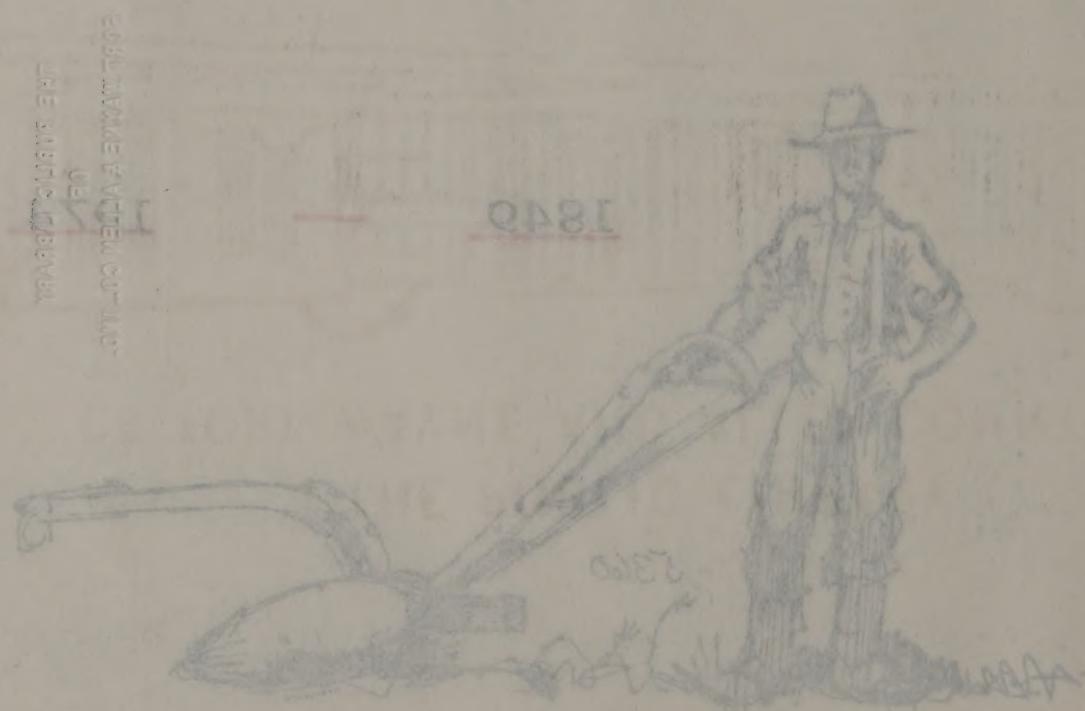
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# HISTORIA

of

## Mexican Gold

~~1840~~ 1840



THE HISTORY OF  
MEXICAN GOLD  
BY  
CHARLES A. GARDNER.

1840 Lippincott

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# **HISTORY OF WEST UNION**

**1849**

**1974**

**PUBLISHED IN CONJUNCTION**

**With The**

**125th JUBILEE**





Class \* F

Book 629

W59

D6

Acc. 103117

## West Union

*A town was born before my time:  
At different times — different names;  
And though, in time, somethings have changed,  
You know the town is still the same.*

*With future, past, and present one,  
We stop and ask what's come of time.  
It's now with hope we look ahead —  
It's faith with which we know we now are led.*

*And so we mark a point in time,  
Where past and present now combine —  
To celebrate with hopeful hearts  
What's come to us down through the years.*

*By Steve Landas  
North High Senior*



## PREFACE

This history of West Union, written and compiled for the 125th Anniversary of the founding of West Union, is an endeavor to put into print, under one cover, what are thought to be important and interesting facts of the history and experiences of the town, the people, and the organizations.

Error and mistakes are a human characteristic and no doubt many will be found in these writings that can be traced to unavailable data, or to the erroneous perspective of individuals. We sincerely hope our readers will kindly overlook any that might appear.

We wish to give special thanks to Judge W. H. Antes for his most unselfish cooperation in his assistance in furnishing the main history of the town; to the owners of the Fayette County Union who have kindly allowed us to use their pictures and historic Union clippings; to all those who have written us short sketches; and to Mrs. Dorothy Blunt for her sketches labeled "Old Things and Old Times," as published in the Union.

The Editors:

Herman J. Doscher

Fran Bowden — Mrs. Gay Bowden



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v159  
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103117





JUDGE W. H. ANTES



# DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to "the Judge", W. H. Antes, long-time resident of West Union and a most respected attorney, school superintendent, District Court Judge, church leader, historian and outstanding citizen of our one hundred and twenty-fifth jubilee city.

"Judge" will celebrate his 85th birthday on August 18, 1974, and has spent 58 years as a civic leader in West Union, for which the entire community is very fortunate.

Judge Antes was born on a farm near Aredale, Iowa (near Waverly) in 1889. Shortly after his birth, the "Judge's" parents moved to Waverly, where he graduated from high school. In 1912, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the State University of Iowa in Iowa City.

After graduation from Iowa U., Judge became superintendent of schools at Brighton, Iowa, where he met Ruby, a teacher, who would be his bride. Judge went next to Monona as superintendent, marrying the Brighton Latin teacher, Miss Ruby Cornelia Stone, on September 1st, 1914, in Waucoma in the Stone family residence.

A new career was launched in 1914, when Judge entered law school at Chicago University, attending during the summers and regular terms, graduating in 1916.

Immediately after graduation from law school in 1916, the Judge joined the law partnership with Judge W. J. Ainsworth in an office over the present Army recruiting office. Judge Ainsworth passed away in 1926, leaving Judge to practice alone until 1938, when his son, Charles joined the firm. On September 1, 1945, Governor Robert Blue appointed Mr. Antes as District Court Judge, the title by which he has been known ever since to everybody. It is an interesting sidelight that son Charles was appointed a District Court Judge just 27 years later to the day on September 1, 1972.

The list of civic and church accomplishments and contributions by the Judge is long and distinguished. After serving during World War I as an officer, he was one of the organizers of the West Union American Legion Post. The Judge served as a continual member of the Board of Education for West Union from 1920 until 1944, much of the time serving as President of the Board.

He joined the H & L Club in 1918, and is still a member of this club which is the oldest men's study club in existence west of the Mississippi River, which was organized in 1880.

Judge has taught a Sunday School class at the Methodist church since 1930, and still teaches the adult

class on Sunday morning. He has been a member of the board of trustees of the church for many years, as well as being lay delegate to the annual conference. A lay speaker, the Judge has filled the pulpit to deliver Sunday morning sermons for many Methodist churches in the area. A high honor was given to him when he was nominated to be the lay delegate from Iowa to the Methodist Jurisdictional conference in Indianapolis.

He was one of the original incorporators of the West Union Country Club, scored the first 'hole in one' on the course, and was known as a tough competitor for many years. Sports have always been of great interest to the Judge, especially baseball and fishing. The Judge has followed local high school sports and state college and university sports squads.

A long-time Rotarian (now an honorary member) of regular attendance, chairman of the Board of Upper Iowa College at Fayette, one of the organizers of the First National Bank of West Union (1934), the Judge has left his mark in many civic and charitable activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Antes moved from their long-time home on 'railroad hill' to an apartment in 1961, with the Judge retiring from his District Court position in 1965. He still goes to his office nearly every day. The Judge's office is in the First National Bank building, and is known to all by the large American flag in the streetside window.

Accomplishments by the Judge are many, but to his friends and associates, the Judge is known for other things. He has always maintained a tremendous interest in people, and has no time for anyone who 'works on the borderline of illegality'. The Judge has always held a high regard for legal ethics, higher even than the judicial code requires.

He has been a lover of nature, always having a birdfeeder so that there would be birds around at all times. He has received much satisfaction from doing something for someone else, as can be testified to by those of us who gave gone to him for contributions to civic, religious and charitable institutions.

As an active member of the Legion, he was responsible for many years for placing flags at the local and rural cemeteries on Memorial Day, calling on his children to help him.

The Judge still serves as chairman of the Library Board, and is very proud of the use of the library given by the local community.

So, we are happy to give this salute to one of the all-time leading citizens and friends of West Union — our beloved "Judge" — Mr. W. H. Antes.

By Steve Story



# INTRODUCTION

Much is to be told of the early make-up of West Union and of her one-hundred twenty-five years of progress. The citizens are proud of their past and look forward to the fruitful, productive years ahead for the city at the crossroads of northeast Iowa.

Before moving on it is interesting to take a look back and recall the events that were taking place in 1850, on an international, national, and state level at the time the founding fathers were establishing the new village to be called West Union.

The territory of Iowa became a state in 1846 and was represented in congress by two congressional districts. In 1851, the state population was considered to be about 117,000. Iowa was being governed by its first two elected governors, Ansel Briggs, 1846-1850; and Steven Hempstead, 1850-1854.

Iowa City, 100 miles south of West Union, was the site of the state capitol, although by 1851 the state legislators were debating the question of moving the location of the state government further west. The final question was solved in 1854 by the fifth General Assembly when they decided upon a site within two miles of the Raccoon forks of the Des Moines River.

Fayette county was put on the map in 1837. The county name is derived from Marques de LaFayette, French General who fought for the colonists during the American Revolution. A county government was not established, nor a location chosen for one until in 1851, through the firm determination of the people of West Union. Eliphalet Price represented Fayette county in the legislature and drafted the bill which allowed for an election to determine the location of the county government.

During the time period in history when West Union had its birth there was a general world wide movement toward democracy. This progress of democracy was accompanied by a vigorous growth of nationalism and a struggle for power among nations. It was this extreme feeling of nationalism or "super patriotism" which was the most powerful force which molded the world from 1830 on. In 1848, the movement became aggressive and each people who had a common language and customs wanted the right to determine their own destinies. Old monarchies of the world were giving way to governments by the people and for the people, such as the United States had established some 70 years before. Germany emerged as a nation under the leadership of Bismark and the South American states were fighting bloody battles over boundary disputes. Because of these events the world would feel effects for generations.

Contemporary with the founding of West Union on the national scene, the United States was in a period of renaissance. The Americans were caught up in the new movement which was sweeping the world whereby people lived by the code so ably put by poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, "We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds."

The Whigs elected their last president in 1849. President Zachary Taylor died in office July 9, 1850, and was followed by Millard Filmore, 1850-1853, and Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857.

In 1850 the railroads were in their early stages of development. Most of them were located in New York and Pennsylvania and were merely connecting links for

canals, the cheapest and most convenient mode of transportation.

Postage stamps were first issued in 1847 and the sender began using envelopes and paying the charges. Up to this time a letter was folded over and sealed with wax. The person receiving the letter paid the charges, usually 25c for a distance of more than 300 miles.

There was a major religious revival spreading throughout the country and temperance societies were gaining momentum on a national level. The Mormons, plagued by internal problems amongst their leadership, made their heart trek across southern Iowa from Navoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Life in the South was characterized by the plantation system which was enjoying a peak in productivity. The question of slavery and sectional controversy of the 1850's would set the stage for the Civil War. The Compromise of 1850, including the fugitive slave law, which equalized the number of states for and against slavery pacified the abolitionists for a time.

People felt free to express themselves as never before, thus it was a productive period for the arts. It was during this era that many of the classics we appreciate today were created. In art it was the impressionistic era and productive periods for Cezanne, Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh. They concentrated on the use of color to illustrate on canvas the laws of physics and nature. In America artist James A. Whistler was at work on an oil painting entitled, "An Arrangement in Grey and Black," better known as "Whistler's Mother." Brahms was composing his lullaby. In literature it was the age of realism of Charles Dickens as exemplified in "Oliver Twist," and "A Christmas Carol." From France came Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary." In Russia, social reformer, Leo Tolstoy was working on the greatest piece of Russian realistic fiction, "War and Peace," 1865-1869, and his great love story "Anna Karenina," 1875-1877. The Brownings were married in 1846, and wrote love poems which reflected their happy life until death parted them in 1861. One of Robert Browning's best loved poems is "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." In 1848, Marx and Engles published the "Communist Manifesto," referred to as "the birth cry of modern socialism."

In the United States Charles Darwin was working on his theory of evolution which would shock the conservative world with the publication of his book, "Origin of Species," 1859.

Contemporary American writers, who would become literary giants of their time, were expressing the social changes in mid-nineteenth century America.

The philosopher Henry David Thoreau was spending time in jail in 1846, rather than pay his poll taxes. He would write about this in "Civil Disobedience" in 1849. He is more famous for his non-conformity and his life referred to in "Walden Pond," 1854.

Neurotic writer, Edgar Allan Poe, died in 1849 after writing mystery stories such as "The Raven" and "Fall of the House of Usher," which would delight all succeeding generations.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow would write "Evangeline" in 1847 and his epic poem "Hiawatha" in 1855. Hawthorne, a classmate of Franklin Pierce and Longfellow, would write from his quiet New England setting and shock the proper ladies and gentlemen of the



day with his "Scarlet Letter," 1850. James Russel Lowell was writing his "Bigelow Papers." Herman Melville, recently returned from his whaling adventures of the South Pacific, would complete his most productive writing period with the classic "Moby Dick" in 1851.

Literacy percentages improved considerably with the establishment of free public education for everyone. Americans gave themselves over to wanderlust as the young and adventurous trekked West to Sutter's Mill in California in search of gold and a new life. Admiral Perry was opening new ports for trade in Japan and introducing western civilization to the Far East. In Ripon, Wis., in 1854, a new political party emerged from the remnants of the once proud Whigs and dissatisfied Democrats and would, in a few short years, project to national prominence a young lawyer from Illinois. They would call themselves Republicans.

When one looks at the total picture, it is amazing to see how attitudes and philosophies on an international level were similar to the motivating forces of men in mid-nineteenth century West Union. This in an era when the main line of communications was the telegraph.

It is good to pause and look back. Our heritage is a rich one. Family genealogies can be traced to many different countries, with widely diversified customs. Those settlers found common goals in democracy and freedom to earn an honorable living. They established farms, churches, schools, and businesses and they reared succeeding generations. It is a good feeling to have one's roots deep in Iowa soil. Also, it is vital that we know our heritage, for one must know the past to have pride in the present and determine the future.

Fran Bowden



# WEST UNION

Cheney Gas. Company  
Gas & Electric Company

Fire Department



Silo



Office



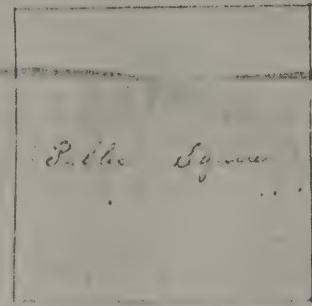
Shoe



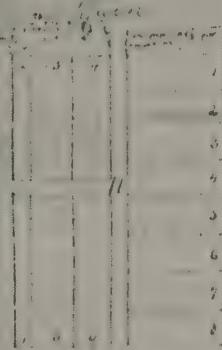
Salt



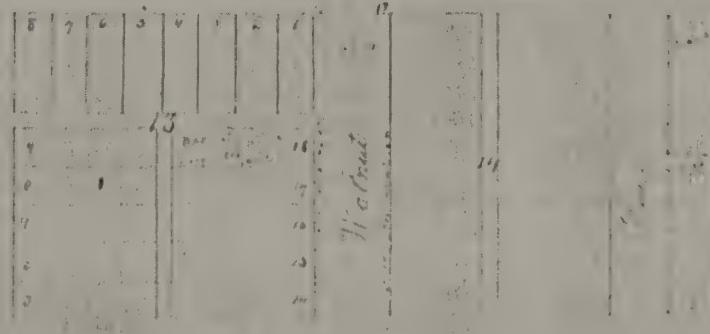
Salt



Public Square



Office



Hotel

1850 plat of West Union





packing plant, feed manufacturers and two factories which make vaults. A number of new residences are now being built here and a new \$120,000 hospital is to be started. In this photograph, the courthouse in the center square, just behind the water tower. The large buildings just beyond courthouse and slightly to the right are grade and high schools. (photo, 1949)

**WEST UNION, FAYETTE COUNTY SEAT**, was settled more than 100 years ago, when it was called Knob Prairie. It has had its present name, however, since 1859. This solid, hard-working town of 2060 population is a shopping center for surrounding farm communities. Its biggest week comes in August, when the annual county fair, one of the state's largest, attracts thousands. The town has two dairies and ice cream factories, a



# HISTORY OF WEST UNION

QUASQUICENTENNIAL 1974 Written by Judge W. H. Antes

While West Union is not the oldest settlement in point of time in Fayette County, yet it was permanently settled only nine years after the first white man's cabin was built near Fayette in 1840.

The site of West Union was originally known as Knob Prairie, but William Wells, who first laid out the town, called it West Union in 1849 after a town of that name in his home State of Ohio.

Several settlers built cabins near West Union in the spring of 1849. Henry F. Smith in May of that year built a cabin in the southwest corner of Section 9 which was probably on the site of or just north of the present William V. Miller home, northeast of the present West Union Mill. Mr. Smith was a veteran of the War of 1812 and was the first Justice of the Peace of West Union. The first religious services were held in his home in September 1849 by Rev. John Hinman of the Methodist Episcopal church. This was the service attended by the Benjamin Iliff family of weldorado who came with an ox team and with all their cattle following behind the wagon just as they had done when they came from Wisconsin.

On April 23, 1849, William Wells came and purchased a cabin already built by one David Smith in the northeast corner of southwest quarter of Section 17, where he built a substantial log house. This was near the center of Sec. 17 and about two rods southeast of the brick house known for years as the Wherry place, and now occupied by the Ferris Meyer family and lying east of Highway 150.

Jacob LyBrand and Jacob and Jacob W. Rogers came in July, 1849 and became partners with William Wells in 60 acres of land which became the plat of West Union. The plat was surveyed in September, 1849 but, since the County Surveyor was not used, the work had to be done over and the town plat was not filed for record

until June 28, 1850. One feature of the plat was the dedication of the Public Square as a site for a Court House provided the County Seat was located in West Union.

William Wells conceived the idea of laying out a town on Knob Prairie, and had decided to call it West Union, because he liked the name of Union, and added "West" to it because there was a West Union, in Ohio, his native state. The plat was certified by three proprietors, William Wells, Jacob Lybrand, and J. W. Rogers. Recorded June 29, 1850 and Dec. 11, 1858.

The first house on the platted part of West Union was built by the first County Judge, Jacob W. Rogers, on Block 17 and on the site of the present Glen Wilson house on Walnut Street. The "Ecker" house, in part of which Frank Camp was born, was torn down in 1953. This was the lot just north of where Dr. H. H. Buhman's house was, 215 S. Walnut St. Dr. Buhman built a new house on the site of Ecker's house 213 S. Walnut St. The house was of hewn logs 18x26; one and one-half stories, with the roof made of shales. The floors and finishing of the house were made of lumber hauled from Elkader. The house was commenced in early October and the family moved into the completed structure on Christmas day 1849.

The first store was opened in part of the William Wells house by LyBrand and Rogers on September 7, 1849 and this store was moved to the new Rogers home in town in January, 1850.

In the summer of 1850 a rival store and a hotel were built by Daniel Cook. A ledger of Mr. Cook's store, evidently his third one because charges are carried forward from Ledger "B", opened for book accounts on April 7, 1852 (was still in the possession of Miss Mae Lambert of this city at the time of her death). The items are not intelligible because the goods sold were entered,



WILLIAM AND ELIZA WELLS, picture taken in early 1860.



not by their named but by Code Numerals. A sample entry charged to a prominent pioneer is as follows:

Lorenzo Dutton, Dr. April 6-1852

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05	10	



L. DUTTON, discoverer of Dutton's Cave, was a lifetime resident here since 1848.

This same Daniel Cook was the Plaintiff in the first lawsuit in the town involving a dressed hog. It was tried before Henry F. Smith, the first Justice of the Peace. Mr. Cook lost his lawsuit. The late John R. Cook, Special Excursion Agent for the Milwaukee Railway, was a son of Daniel Cook.

Prior to the naming of the town, the first Fourth of July Celebration was held on Knob Prairie on July 4, 1849. A liberty pole was cut and erected about 230 feet south of the Southeast corner of the Square, just south of the site of the present water tower, and close to the spring located on the south side of Plum Street, near the present Pixler house and at which spring was located a pump and a stock watering tank. Other sources of water before city waterworks were established were the town pump on the west side of the Square near the present sidewalk across the street from the Rexall Drug Store and another stock watering trough back of the present Karban's store on the corner of Vine Street and the north side of Elm Street.

Jacob W. Rogers was the first postmaster, the West Union Post Office established January 29, 1850 being the first one in Fayette County. Mr. Rogers was the first County Clerk, having been appointed upon the organization of the County in 1850. He was elected the first County Judge in August 1857 and served four years. In 1862 he entered the Army and was elected Captain of Co. F., 38th Iowa Inf. He and his wife, Sarah Jane Rogers, became the parents of the first white child born in West Union who was Oscar Wentworth Rogers, born Oct. 2, 1850. This son became a lawyer and an inventor.

The City of West Union was not officially incorporated until 1866 when H. N. Hawkins became the first Mayor and I. F. Clark the first Recorder or Clerk. Long before that time however, a thriving community had grown up. Schools and churches and many business and professional places were well established. The

county was organized in 1850 and a Court House completed in 1857.

The earliest plat book of West Union, published in 1879, shows numerous carpenter shops, saw and planing mills, two grist mills, pump shop, sorghum mill, broom factory, cheese factory, creamery, and two ice houses, in addition to churches, a school and business places.

The first bank in the County was opened by S. B. Zeigler in April 1866 although he had operated a private banking business in his law office from June 1856. In 1874 the first permanent banking building was built on the west side of Vine street by the Fayette County National Bank which subsequently became the present First National Bank.

There were four early hotels, some of which were very pretentious. The United States House was a three story frame building, located on the site of the present bank building. A bugle would announce the approach of the stage coach from McGregor or Dubuque. The alley now occupied by the Traeger building served as a passageway to the livery barns to the rear of the hotel.



EARLIEST PICTURE of Elm street from Vine street looking east showing the West Union House, where Browns Department store is presently located, the Stewart House, near the site of the present Odd Fellow building, and the Arlington Hotel, where Traeger's Jack & Jill is now located.



LATER PICTURE of one above.





LATEST PICTURE of Elm street looking east.

The Stafford Hotel later known as the West Union House occupied the present "Greasy Spoon" corner. Part of this building now serves as a residence on Linden Street just across the alley from the present Fire Station.

The Leverich House, later known as the Irvin House, then as City Hotel, and then known as the Descent House and finally known as the Arlington Hotel, occupied the present corner of Traegers at the S.W. corner of Vine and Walnut streets. This burned in the City's most spectacular fire at 5:00 a.m., Sunday, March 22, 1903. Miss Julia Olson of this city was one of those who escaped by sliding down a rope from the third story. Mrs. Catherine McClintock, the mother of John R. Cook's wife, jumped from a second story window to the sidewalk and broke both legs. She died of her injuries six days later.

The Dayton House, later called the Stewart House, was located south of the Court House Square near the site of the present Odd Fellow building.

The Commercial Hotel, later called Hotel West and later known as the Rex was built by a Mr. Kitchen in the early 80's. The first proprietor was M. V. Henderson, grandfather of M. V. Henderson, jr., of West Union. Many will remember the late James S. Lisher as the proprietor for many years. The hotel was located on Main street, one lot east of Vine Street and west of the 1930 School House. This hotel was torn down in 19

An issue of the Fayette County Union, dated January 3, 1857 shows the ads of the following merchants, some of which names will be very familiar to many of you:

GROCERIES — Gilbert Bros., G. L. Noble  
GENERAL STORE — John Owens, A. H. and H. B. Fox, Sturgis and Patrick, G. H. Thomas, Malone and Stafford, Heiserman and Nefzger, Lewis Burkey.  
DRUG STORES — Robinson and Waterbury, A. Bassett  
BOOTS AND SHOES — John Sampson (Among the early leather goods salesmen who came here to sell merchandise to Mr. Sampson was Ulysses S. Grant).  
HARDWARE — S. W. Cole  
JEWELRY — J. P. Parrott  
MERCHANT TAILOR — H. Wonnenberg  
BLACKSMITH — Thomas Green  
FLOOR MILL — W. B. McCleery  
WAGON MFG. — Peak & Wimber  
PHOTOGRAPHS — A. P. White  
LIVERY — Veterinary; J. J. Welsh (Afterwards Sheriff)  
ABSTRACTS — J. W. Rogers  
DENTISTS — Bowers and Redfield  
INSURANCE — I. F. Clark  
Other well known names subsequently appearing as West Union Merchants are:  
MEN'S FURNISHINGS — W. B. Thomas  
GROCERIES — A. C. Gunsalus (grandfather of ARCHIBALD Sowden, our distinguished violinist), McMasters & Gilbert  
JEWELRY — Ella Parrott





EARLIEST PICTURE of Elm street from Walnut street looking west shows the Arlington Hotel, present site of Traeger's Jack & Jill, the Stewart House, site of the present Odd Fellow building, and the West Union House where Browns is presently located.



LATER picture of one at left.



LATEST PICTURE of same locations as above.

HARDWARE — H. B. Hoyt, Nandell & Nye

LUMBER — James Graham, N. S. Schenck

FURNITURE — L. W. Burnham

LIVERY — Frank Ward

STAGE COACH — Austin H. Titus

Time and space will not permit an adequate listing of prominent West Union people but other well known

names in West Union business, many of them later in time, include the following:

Smith Bros, Hardware; T. R. Stam, J. H. Daugherty, M. C. Musser, Dry Goods; Henry Rush, Col. J. W. Bopp, J. W. Dwyer, Real Estate; Hazen Chandler, F. C. or Dell Chandler, Dan Loftus, Restaurants; William Heiserman, Howard Wead, R. O. Woodard, Loans; Neff Bros., West





EARLIEST PICTURE of Vine street from Elm street looking north.



LATER PICTURE of one to the left.



LATEST PICTURE of same locations as above.

Union Power Light & Power Co.; B. D. Chandler and James Finch, Horses; E. B. Shaw, Frank Y. Whitmore, Frank Camp and A. J. Gurney, Banking; Thos. Theobald, Meat Market; G. W. Fitch, County Superintendent (author of a County History); George Archer, Harness; D. O. Smith, Wagonmaker; Eugene Lawyer, Hardware, Penman, Clerk, Athlete; Harry M. Stafford, Secretary Fair Association; W. W. Wright, Deputy County Treasurer, Banking, Clerk and Assessor; H. B. Blackman, Newspaper work and store clerk; A. K. White, Fred W. Schneider, Schuyler Green, C. J. McLaughlin, Druggists; C. B. Minchen, Merchant and Mayor.

One of the best known and most fearless of public officers of northeastern Iowa was Henry O'Neal, who became Sheriff January 1, 1888, and just in time to officiate at the first and only public execution in Fayette County.

The following are some of the former prominent early doctors of this community: Joseph H. Stafford (the first physician in the county), E. R. Ziegler, S. E. Robinson (who was a Civil War surgeon), Levi Fuller, E. A. Ainsworth, G. D. Darnall (a long time member of the School Board).

Prominent among the early lawyers were L. L. Ainsworth, who opened an office in 1856; S. B. Zeigler; Judge Milo McGlathery, Henry Rickel, Judge A. N. Hobson, C. H. Millar, Wm. E. Fuller, W. J. Ainsworth, E. H. Estey, Henry L. Adams and A. C. Peterson. Hon. L. L. Ainsworth, prominent Democratic lawyer, served one term in the House of Representatives; Hon. Walt H. Butler, one-time editor of the Fayette County Union, and a Democrat, also served one term in the House of Representatives, and Hon. W. E. Fuller, a Republican lawyer served two terms in the House of Representatives. He also served as assistant United States Attorney-General. Numerous West Union citizens have represented the County in the State Legislature.

The following six West Union Lawyers have come District Court Judges:

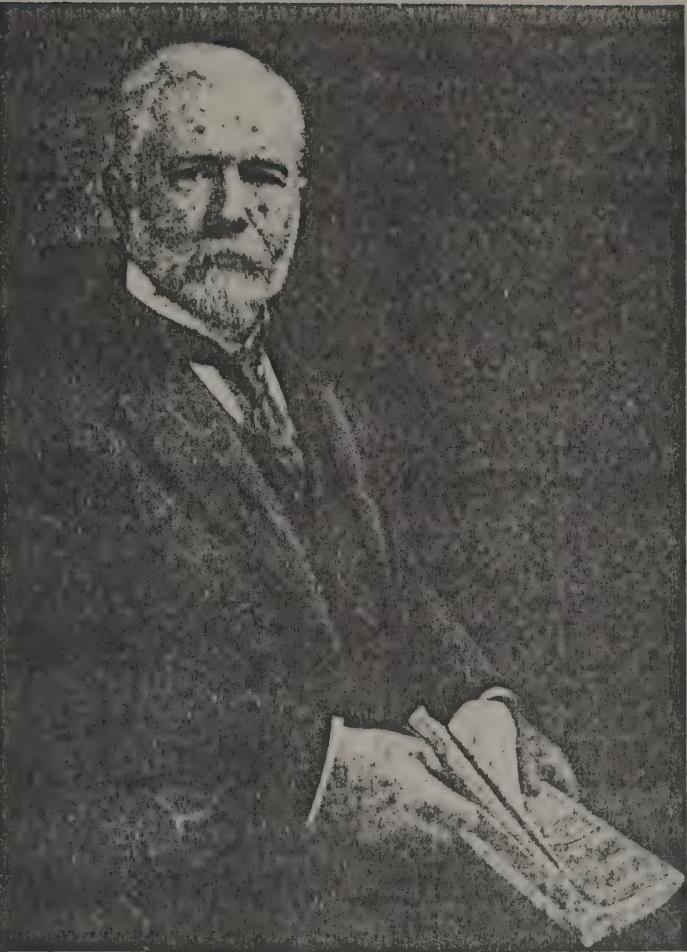
1. Milo McGlathery - 1867-1874
2. Alfred N. Hobson - 1895-1918
3. James D. Cooney - 1924-1926
4. Martin M. Cooney - 1942-1945
5. William H. Antes - 1945-1965
6. Charles W. Antes - 1972-

Two former Superintendents of our Public Schools later became State Superintendents of Public Instruction: J. B. Knoepfle and Fred Merritt. Miss May Francis, a former principal of the West Union School, also became State Superintendent.

The center of West Union's business district has always been Court House Square. The grounds were originally enclosed by a wooden picket fence and later by a gas pipe fence. The grading and sodding of the grounds was done by Jack Fox. Originally the trees around the square were high cottonwoods. When they were cut the stumps were grubbed out and used as filling on the part of Vine Street just south of Linden street. The cottonwoods were followed by soft maples which were cut about the close of World War I. These were followed by beautiful American Elms.

On January 21, 1851 the Iowa Legislature passed a bill describing the method of locating a county seat. They selected five possible places, Centerville at the County Center, Lightville, later called Lima, West Union,





W. E. FULLER

Auburn and Clermont. The election was held on the first Monday of April 1851. The West Union point and Lima points received the most votes. The law then required another election between these top two locations. This was held on the first Monday in May 1851. West Union won this election by a majority of 35 votes.

In the summer of 1852 people from Westfield area and the south part of the county got the legislature to require the County to hold another election on the question of removing the County Seat from West Union to the geographical center. In August 1853 the election was held and by a vote of 95 the County Seat remained at West Union.

Another attempt to change the location of the County Seat was made in 1859 on December 5, 1859, a petition signed by 1349 was filed with the Court asking for an election vote on the question of to change the County Seat to Fayette. The election was held on the first Monday in April 1860. The vote was 1304 against removal and 1221 for removal.

Another attempt to remove the County Seat to Fayette was made by an election on October 8, 1867. That vote was 1715 against removal and 1360 for removal.

The Court House burned on September 15, 1872. Soon after the fire petitions were circulated for the removal of the County Seat to Fayette. These were signed by at least 2200 people. This was followed by remonstrances against such an election signed by 2450 people. Many signers were found to be ineligible to vote. The case was taken to the courts twice resulting in a final order on June 12, 1873 restraining the Supervisors from making

any order for an election. Nothing further was done until April 1874. Finally West Union citizens offered \$5,000.00 toward the cost of new Court House on the site of the old building. This offer was accepted and a contract for a new building signed on May 7, 1874. The new building was ready for occupation on September 10, 1874.

The 1874 Court House burned on February 5, 1922. The Board of Supervisors immediately rented the empty Universalist church for use as a temporary Court House.

A group of citizens from Oelwein and vicinity immediately organized a large group of workers to circulate a petition to change the County Seat from West Union to Oelwein. The law at that time required an election if a majority of the qualified voters petitioned for it. It also provided that a remonstrance could be circulated and that any signer of the petition could withdraw his name by signing the remonstrance. This resulted in weeks of work for workers from both the Oelwein and West Union areas. While this work was going on the citizens of West Union and vicinity raised the sum of \$100,000, which was deposited in equal amounts in the three West Union banks; The State Bank of West Union, the Citizens State Bank and the Fayette County National Bank. Checks for the total amount were signed and delivered to the Board of Supervisors on March 21, 1922, to be used whenever the Board "contracted for the erection of a Court House at West Union, Iowa."

The petitions were delivered to the County Auditor on April 3, 1922 and the remonstrances were delivered about May 20, 1922. The canvass revealed that there were far too few qualified petitioners to require an election and the Board proceeded to begin the work of building the new Court House on the site of the old one in West Union.

The corner stone was dedicated by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa on June 21, 1923. One feature of this ceremony was the presence of all 25 of the Civil War veterans of Fayette County.

The new building of gray stone is three stories high with a basement and attic. The building is 90 feet by 116 feet and is one of the finest Court Houses in the middle west. The building was dedicated with an elaborate program on October 8, 1924.

Many years ago, West Union put in a city water and sewer system and these have been enlarged and improved several times. The old standpipe was located on the square near the northwest corner of the Court House. It tilted a foot or two out of plumb and became unsafe and was removed in 1934 when the present 130 ft. tower type of tank was erected.

The first paving was the brick placed on Vine Street and around the Square in 1914. This was supplemented by extensive cement paving in 1922, by the establishing of Highway No. 150 through the west part of the City in 1931 and by some widening on Vine Street and on Elm Street when the new Post office was built in 1940. Many additional streets were paved since then.

Originally the Square was surrounded by wooden hitching posts. These were replaced by steel posts and chains. A photograph made in 1908 shows these steel posts. These were all removed in the early 1930's except those on Walnut street on the northeast corner of the Square. These chains were removed in the early 1960's. The last public livery barn in West Union was torn down



in 1922 to make way for the new High School of 1930. The last hitching shed was located where the present Traeger's Grocery building is located.



EARLIEST PICTURE of Vine street from Elm street looking south.



LATER PICTURE of one above.



LATEST PICTURE of same location as above.

About 1920 the city purchased the large brick building at the northeast corner of Elm and Walnut streets and operated it as a City Hospital until about 1950. At that time the building was sold to the Good Samaritan Society. See HOSPITAL HISTORY for further details.

The Fayette County Fair was first held on the Square in 1854 and for several years thereafter. Some of the displays were in the Methodist church and the United States House. Later the Society acquired ground south of Otter Creek and by a number of acquisitions of land and closings of streets the present spacious, well shaded grounds with excellent buildings and grandstand and new race track have become the property of the Society. It has never missed an exhibition since 1854 and now ranks fourth in the State in total annual receipts.

The first public school house in West Union was a log building, built in the summer of 1850 at the southeast corner of Elm and Pine Streets on the lot now occupied by Mrs Catherine Richards' daughter, Mrs. Colburn. For some years thereafter school was also held in the churches. At the time the late Frank Camp started to school, there were four places where school was held.

In an early day many West Union young people were also educated in the private school of S. S. Ainsworth, known as the Ainsworth Academy. Mr. E. M. Phillips had in his possession in his office a framed copy of a school program held March 22, 1858.

The log building was succeeded by a new frame building erected on the Cemetery hill on the north side of Elm Street in 1864. Four more rooms were added in 1871.

The first brick school was built on the north side of main street and on the west side of Walnut Street, and facing the Court House Square. This was built in 1881. In 1902 an addition of the same size was attached to the west side of the first building. These served as both the grade and the high school until 1930.

In 1922 the school grounds were enlarged by the purchase of three residences, the former city hall, the fire station and the livery stable, and several vacant lots to the west and north of the schoolhouse to highway No. 18.

In 1930 a new brick school was built facing Main Street. This became the high school and the old building





SECOND Court House built in 1874.



SECOND COURT HOUSE burning in 1922.

the grade school. The vacant lots were used for football, baseball, tennis and playgrounds.

In the 1960's the school district was greatly enlarged under a new state law by taking in the areas of Hawkeye, Alpha and Eldorado, and several townships of farm areas. Since then the official name is "North Fayette County Community School."

Since then the school purchased an additional area of farm land north of Highway No. 18 and east of Pine Street also known as the paved Ossian road. For two additional school buildings and athletic fields. (See SCHOOL HISTORY)

The first newspaper in West Union, which was also the first in Fayette County was called the Fayette County Pioneer. It was a Democratic paper, published by John Sharky. The first issue was October 21, 1853 and it continued with many interruptions until 1864.

Numerous papers were published after that date and by numerous owners. The Fayette County Union was first issued January 4, 1866 by William McClintock and Henry Rickal. Prior to the present ownership this paper was published for a long time by the E. A. McIlree family. The West Union Gazette was founded in 1867 by Shannon & Talmadge.

The Argo was established in 1881 by Frank and L. T. Hobson. These two papers were subsequently combined in the Argo-Gazette by the late Walter H. Beall and

published by him until his death in 1944. At that time the Argo Gazette was discontinued and consolidated with the Fayette County Union.

Beginning in 1873 twelve-year-old L. T. Hobson published a two sheet paper of about 5"x7" size. There is in existence a bound volume of over one year's issue of this paper. The issue of December 24, 1874 describes "Instrumental and Vocal Concert" given at Zeiglers' Hall by William Lewis, the celebrated violinist of Chicago, assisted by Mrs. S. B. Zeigler, Miss Jennie Donald, Miss Ida Donald and Mrs. W. C. Kidder. The full classical program was published.

The seven active West Union churches will be referred to in another portion of this account. Other churches which formerly were located here were the United Brethren whose building now belongs to the St. Olaf Lutheran church, the Advent Church formerly located on Jefferson Street just east of the new Hospital site, and the Burbank Memorial Universalist church at the corner of Vine and Plum streets which was torn down in 1937 to make way for the DX Service Station.

A new era was opened for the early city with the coming of the railroads. The original road, called the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota (later Northern) R.R., and now known as the Rock Island reached West Union from the north in September 1872. The first car load of freight reached West Union October 11, 1872 and during that month a huge celebration was held in the city. The road was completed through the County September 7, 1873. That year two new locomotives were put into service, one named West Union and one named Independence.

In the winter of 1874-75 there was much snow to interfere with the trains. On February 1, 1875 a heavy storm blocked the road at the Heiserman cut south of West Union and a train remained in the snowdrift over a month. Over one hundred men were employed to shovel out the drift. Another storm on March 15th closed the road again for an additional two weeks. Feed supplies had to be brought in by team from Postville and Independence.

Mr. J. F. Miller, an old Rock Island railroad man, formerly of this city, writes the following about the first railroad winter of 1873:

"During the first year (1873) there was shipped out of West Union 600 car loads of grain (mostly wheat), 200 car loads of livestock, 72 car loads of dressed hogs, and a scarcity of cars caused the frozen dressed hogs to be corded in the street like cord wood from Vine Street nearly to the Sescent house, and at the depot north of the station they were stacked, standing on their snouts and front feet between the tracks nearly to the north switch."

The first telegraph was completed into West Union from Postville on October 29th, 1873.

The Turkey River branch of the Milwaukee R.R. was completed to Wadena in 1878 and into West Union a few months later. This was abandoned and the tracks torn up in the summer of 1938.

A special edition of the Argo-Gazette published in 1914 says that in a single year there were 650 outgoing cars of freight on the Milwaukee, which included 300 cars of livestock. The same year the Rock Island was selling from 800-900 passenger tickets per month. The Rock Island passenger service was discontinued several years ago.



**G.A.R. MEETING** held on the Court House square in West Union, Iowa on June 21, 1923, from left to right G. D. Rathbun, Fayette; J. M. Jobe, West Union; Squire S. Payne, Maynard; Andrew Addie, Arlington; Henry Richmond, West Union; J. E. Osborn, Randalia; Albert Lyon, West Union; Ed Belknap, Fayette; Jehiel Warner, Lima; Reed McIlree, West Union; James Carmichael, Elgin; J. H. Ernest, Elgin; G. E. Baldwin,

Elgin; George Austin, Hawkeye; H. G. Simpson, West Union; D. H. Hall, Franklin; S. Downs, West Union; J. E. Fitch, Waucoma; Martin Klingman, Wadena; James Conrad, Decorah; George Latimer, Westgate; D. O. Smith, West Union; R. Z. Latimer, Fayette; Amos Longfield, Marshalltown; George Brown, Fayette; and Cornelius Stirk, West Union.







OLD SCHOOL BUILDING before being demolished.



PARTLY Demolished



OLD TOWER coming down

West Union is now served only by one bus line which daily runs from Cedar Rapids to Minneapolis and one reverse line each day.

No history of West Union is complete without some reference to the Military service rendered to our Country. In April 1861 recruiting was commenced in the county, and many soldiers marched away from the Court

House Square after ceremonies in which the ladies presented flags to the company commanders. The first Volunteer Company of 78 men was completed May 1st, 1861 and C. A. Newcomb, a law partner of L. L. Ainsworth, was elected as Captain. A Cavalry company was completed June 1st and Milo McGlathery, afterwards a District Court Judge, was elected as Captain. In the summer of 1862, four additional companies left West Union one under Capt. Charles Chadwick, one under Capt. J. W. Rogers, one under Capt. J. J. Welsh, and one under Capt. Eliphalet Follett.

Additional Companies were commanded by Captains Jacob Swank, L. L. Ainsworth and J. S. Brewer.

The valiant services of these men and of those others who served in the three subsequent wars are written on the pages of our National history. The extent of local participation is somewhat evidenced by the fact that there are buried in the West Union Cemetery soldiers of our various conflicts as follows:

War of 1812 — 6
Florida War (1818-19) — 1
Mexican War of 1845 — 2
Civil War — 130
Spanish American War — 3
World War — 38
World War II — 35
Korean War — 2
Other Military Service — 1
Total — 218

The last resident of Abernathy Post No. 48 of the G.A.R. was H. E. Foster who died August 7, 1936. The last member of the Post was James S. Lisher who died in California on February 19, 1938. He was buried in West Union. The final reunion of the G.A.R. post in West Union was held in 1935 with Franklin Downs, John T. Gager and H. E. Foster present. It is said that this post whose headquarters were once the third floor of the building now occupied by the Town House Cafe at one time numbered 200 members.

The American Legion has been very active in West Union since 1919. They built a building of their own on Highway No. 18 at the west edge of this city. At present time the Legion building is occupied by the Boot Hill Supper Club owned by Cuddy Bernau.

Some mention must also be made of the agricultural and horticultural achievements of this community. In Linden Park, at the west edge of the city once grew two of the largest trees in the state of Iowa. One was a late fall apple tree planted by Dr. Stafford, a pioneer physician in 1862. At five feet above the ground its trunk was 30' through. In 1911 it produced 43 bushels of apples. Near by was also a cottonwood planted in 1860 by the same Dr. Stafford which in 1914 had a diameter of eight feet, measured four feet from the ground. It had a spread of 98 feet one way and 103 feet the other way. These trees are now gone.

For many years a civil war veteran, Mr. D. H. Hall, beloved of all West Union school children in his day, carried on truck gardening on an intensive scale on his twelve and one-half acre place at the north edge of West Union. From two acres of strawberries he picked from 5000 to 20,000 boxes of strawberries a year for a dozen years. These brought him from 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>c to 11c per box.



Mr. Hall also raised onions and in the typical year of 1912 he raised 700 bushels from  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an acre.

The history of 1878 gives the astounding information that in the year of the first County Fair, 1855, David Scott raised 161 bushels and 14 quarts of corn on one acre of land.

At one time considerable tobacco was raised close to West Union and many people can remember the S. B. Carter tobacco farm at the northwest corner of the city, for some years owned and occupied solely by Veterinarian Dr. M. F. Frevert but now the home of several extensive business enterprises and many new houses.

Sometimes the changing history of a city is best brought to our attention by recalling some of the things which have disappeared In an 1898 copy of the Argo



**OLDEST RACE DRIVER IN UNITED STATES** — West Union's own Hunting Barnes was honored in 1917 on his 89th birthday as the oldest race horse driver in the United States. Mr. Barnes, who lived at 340 South Vine was presented a gold-headed cane by his fellow racers, who stand behind him. The presentation was made at the West Union fairgrounds in front of the old grandstand which was destroyed by a tornado in 1934. The cane was later given to W. H. Antes, a friend and neighbor of the Barnes family.

there are references to the following organizations which are no longer in existence in West Union.

Women's Relief Corps, Post No. 48 of G.A.R., Arbor Vitae Camp No. 292, M.W.A., Mystic Tailers, Home Forum, Langridge Commandery, Colfax Canton of Patriarchs Millitant.

Gone also is the best horse racing man in the history of the city. We refer to Hunt Barnes, who at his death was the oldest driver in the United States. His last racing was here on the West Union track when he was 89 years of age.

Gone also are Ziegler Hall and the Rink. Ziegler Hall located on the second floor of the bank building built by S. B. Ziegler in 1874 served as an Opera House until about 1918. About 1919 or 1920 it was remodeled into a dance hall, and used until the dance pavilion was built on the Fair Grounds.

The Rink was used for roller skating and later for an Opera House, Dance Hall and School Gymnasium until the new school house was built in 1930. It was then

remodelled by W. H. Burnham into a residence and funeral home. A few years later the Catholic Church bought the Rink and converted it to a parochial school and the residence part of a home for the nuns who were the school teachers. A few years later the Catholic School was closed and merged with the West Union Public School. The Rink has not been used since the school was closed.

Also missing is the Chautauqua which began in 1907 and which was an annual event until about 1924. In the earlier years the grounds back of the old grade building were used for the Chautauqua. Among the famous personalities who appeared in West Union were William Jennings Bryan, Robert M. LaFollette, Billy Sunday, Bishop Samuel Fallows, Bishop William O. Quayle and Carrie Nation.

An incident of the very early days is worth recording. In 1854 there was a saloon on the south side of Elm Street across from the Court House and probably a short distance west of the present grocery building then known as the "Black Warrior." Evidently it was considered by some of the ladies as the worst offender among the places engaged in that business and they decided to handle the situation themselves. Armed with proper tools a group of fifteen to twenty of them entered the saloon on June 29, 1854 and proceeded to destroy the contents. It is said on good authority that a ten gallon keg of whiskey was rolled to the street, broken open and left to drain into the street. Two characters of the town seeing this, proceeded to lie down next to the keg, the better to reach the contents and drank so much of the same that they were unable to rise. Among the women engaging in this "Carrie Nation Party," nearly a half century before Carrie Nation's time were Mrs. Ben Conkey, Mrs. J. S. Brewer, Mrs. Jacob W. Rogers and Mrs. J. J. Berkey.

A number of people remember a saloon on South Vine Street in the basement of the present Gustav Schatz residence then operated by Stormy Jordan and one on the site of the Fayette County Lumber Company. Others were in the hotels and elsewhere about the business district.

Among the major building projects of recent years are the Kleenmaid Relay Station on Franklin Street; the Big Gain Products plant on South Vine Street; the Elsheimer Meat Products plants on Walnut Street and on old Highway No. 56; the Legion building on Highway No. 18; the Palmer Memorial Hospital on Jefferson Street; the Post office on North Vine street; a new Zion Lutheran Church; the H & H Distributing Company building on Vine Street; a new Fire Station; the Carpenter and Kraft Ready Mix; two Motels, The Lila and the Elms; Dessels Furniture Store; the Heyer Enterprises Firms and Foods; the Bowling Alley; the Schwan Dairy Company; The Humphry Cafe; the Frey's Mobile Home Sales & Park; the Bostrom Super Valu; the Traeger's Jack & Jill; the Farm Fle Supplies; the Farmers Savings Bank; the First National Bank; Drive-In; the Good Samaritan Nursing Center; the Elementary School; the North High School; the City Swimming Pool; the Burnham & Wood Funeral Home; Eastern Contractors, Inc.; Farm Bureau Service Co.; Franzen Implement Co.; Midwest Silo Co., and Wils Feed & Supply.

In the last twenty years about one hundred fi-





**ROSS WHITCHER'S POOL HALL** — Standing on the steps are left to right, John Cook, Bill Hoover, John Stahl and Gandy DeSart. This

houses have been built in West Union and an extensive shopping center is now in process of being finished in the northwest part of the city.

Time will not permit further incidents or facts of West Union history upon this occasion.

Many of the facts and dates given could easily be disputed. The three published histories of the County do not agree upon all these matters and the earliest history dated in 1878 indicates that even at that time some of the early dates were already rather indefinite. The material used however has been obtained from the three histories and from many published newspaper articles and the personal recollections of many people, and in each case what seems to have been the most authentic record has been used. After all, the incidents themselves are of vastly more historical interest in giving a picture of pioneer life and development than exactness of detail.

And who can say what has been the most important or interesting feature of the past 125 years in West Union?

Was it the coming of the railroads; the paved highways or the bus lines?

Was it the old horse drawn hack which met the passenger trains for the hotels and which in muddy times could not reach the depots but backed up to the stone sidewalk near the site of the Fayette County Lumber Co.?

Was it the feud between Henry Rush and Judge Roger with its use of firearms?

business was open around 1914-1917 in the building which is presently the Odd Fellows Hall.

Was it the perpetual motion machine so closely guarded by Oscar Rogers?

Was it the political campaign of Hon. Wm. E. Fuller in which he so effectively mentioned in every speech his newly born twins?

Was it the Court House fights in which Auburn, Lightville or Lima, Fayette and Oelwein sought to become the County Seat?

Was it the protracted fight over the location of the first brick schoolhouse?

Was it the last minute write-in campaign by which J. W. Dwyer and H. P. Hancock became members of the School Board?

Was it the 55 reunions of the G.A.R. or the 94 years of the County Fair?

Was it the deal by which Randall's Addition to West Union on South Vine Street was given to Rock Island surveyor and Engineer Randall in exchange for his location of the depot at its present site instead of the expected site a block or two east thereof?

Was it the incident in which a prominent West Union man in trying to say the worst possible thing about another prominent West Union man said, "Why you, you, were born in Frog Hollow?"

Was it the appearance of Ringling Bros. circus and the furor which followed because the Mayor furnished free city water for the use of the circus?

Was it the incident when Mrs. Frank Schwestka withdrew from her music work for one year to have a





**REX HOTEL** — Once a thriving business, the Rex Hotel has since been abandoned. This picture, taken in the early 1880's, shows the coach which transported people from the West Union depot to Rex Hotel. Hotel clerk, Ken Otley, is standing in the doorway. Leaning out of the window is Jim

Lisher, owner of the hotel. Identity of the other passenger is unknown. Driver of the hack is Lew Mishler, uncle of Raymond Mishler, who loaned the picture to the Union.

child and ended with a family of 17 children, one of whom was well known in New York music circles under the name of Robert Malone?

Was it the mystery of the stone walled and covered grave in the cemetery near the highway about which there are no records and no knowledge as to whether it contains the body of a man or a woman but rumors vary from that of a well to do man traveling west to that of an Indian Princess?

Was it the huge iron dog which once stood upon the cemetery lot of Mr. C. B. Minchen, and later on the Court House Square and then in the yard of the Seymour Grimes place in the northeast part of town and now in the residence yard in Postville, Iowa?

Was it the baseball prowess of the early West Union teams which included players like O. R. Woodard, Jap Fox, Gene Lawyer and Skinny Dye or the State High School Champions of 1929?

Was it the Will Daniels family of drummers with

every boy at some time known as "Speck?"

Was it the time when it was customary for the ladies as well as the men to go the "Greasy Spoon" for a snack after a dance or show?

Was it the time when a determined effort was made to prevent Sunday baseball and when Sunday movies were prohibited?

Was it the time when School Superintendent Saunders was made warden of the Fort Madison Penitentiary?

Was it the Red Cross of World War I days which raised thousands of dollars in every community or was it the demobilization of the service flag at the close of the War with Iowa's greatest orator, Robert Cousins, as the speaker?

Was it the whispering campaign carried to the farmers of the County which prevented an extremely capable West Union man being nominated for the Stat-



Legislature on the claim that he was not able to milk a cow?

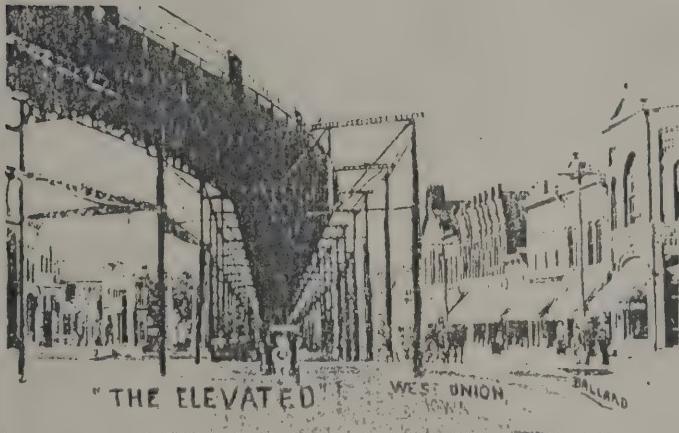
At least life in West Union has been punctuated with a vast array of fascinating events.

These early pioneers built even better than they realized and it is now our heritage to live in this beautiful and commodious city and to enjoy the things which they made possible for us. May we be as farsighted as these pioneers were as we lay plans for those who shall carry on in this city for the next century of its history.



## Old Things and Old Times

By Mrs. George Blunt



How did the young men of the early twentieth century spend their leisure time?

Well, let's take the Fun Hunters for an example. They were a group of young fellows from here in town and the near-by country, who, as their name suggests, looked for unusual ways to have a good time. Some of those who spent the most time together were Ern Ballard, Earl Chandler, Harley Weight, Fred Blunt, Reuben Lohr, Ed Jacobs, Art Jacobs, Howard Sharp, and Carl Westpfahl. Others sometimes joined them for trips, etc.

In summer, they enjoyed camping. Most of their jaunts were to the lake at Alpha, but at least once, they traveled to Elkader by train, then by team to Motor Mills, a very popular picnic place at that time. Their activities included fishing, swimming, boating, exploring, even sailing, though the sailboat came to a sad end. To judge by the stories, practical jokes must have been a favorite pastime, also.

Several of them played musical instruments, and many were the hours they spent in informal sessions, trying for different effects, or demonstrating their talents.

A few of the boys were interested in photography, either professionally or as a hobby, and much time was spent both winter and summer in taking, developing and printing pictures of their many activities, and other subjects.

The example of trick photography above, West Union's South Vine Street, was the result of one or more

such sessions. What fun they must have had when they thought of it. What planning care to achieve this result! What anxious moments as the final product appeared! Notice the horse and buggy traveling along so sedately under the noisy El and "innocent bystanders" near the utility pole.

Compared to holiday riots, their entertainment was probably pretty tame, but what good citizens were the result of hunting such wholesome types of fun!

## July 4, 1849

Did you ever hear that West Union, like our nation, was born on the Fourth of July? Well, maybe not on the very day, but "about that time," the old history says.

It is hard to imagine that 1849 celebration, because it is almost impossible to picture West Union with no houses, no streets, no people, not even many trees, for this was a true prairie.

William Wells with his family, had come here in April, 1849, and built a large log house just north of Otter Creek, where we now see the Interstate warehouse, but the land where the main part of our town is located was his "back forty", so to speak. The celebration was held on this land, with the speakers' stand about where the courtyard driveway enters the south-east corner of the square. The Liberty Pole was erected a short distance south, probably where Mr. and Mrs. McCord live now. This pole was a "fine hickory elm," cut in a grove near the present Howard Easton home (formerly the home of the A. R. Burritt, Leonard Humphry, or Dayton DeGraw families). The liberty pole, according to the practice of those days, was topped, not with a flag, but with a liberty cap, similar to the one we have seen on pictures of Columbia. This was a symbol of freedom, as it was patterned after the cap given to freed slaves in ancient Greece.

Mr. Wells and his few new neighbors invited all the pioneer families from the scattered settlements to share his holiday with them, and planned a program suitable for the day and times. Stephen Bailey was president of the day, Simeon B. Forbes, of Elgin, reader of the Declaration, and Samuel Wilson and Rev. Joseph Forbes (also of Elgin), the orators. Benjamin Iliff, Eldorado's first settler, in his account of the activities, described a dog fight in the midst of the audience, which came to a climax just as the speaker reached his highest point of interest.

Many of these people were old neighbors and friends from Monroe, Wisconsin; probably some had urged the others to try their luck in this new country. At least they spent much of the time visiting, and talking over the future prospects of the place. There were about sixty people present, most of them substantial citizens who had made a start on establishing homes and farms within ten miles or so, and it is no wonder that Mr. Wells conceived the idea of laying out a town, to be called West Union. Union was a word that appealed to him, West Union was the name of a town in Ohio, his former home. So West Union, Iowa it became, centered by a beautiful village green donated by Mr. Wells for the use of the county, should they decide to locate the county seat in his new town.

Thank you, William Wells, for being so farsighted, on that Independence day long, long ago.



# HISTORY OF TRANSPORTATION

## ROADS

The first settlers to Fayette County and West Union arrived over the old military roads. By 1850 a prime



PREPARING AND HAND BRICKING the streets of West Union around  
1914 Work was done by Sweeney Brothers.

concern of the 835 citizens of West Union and Fayette county was to have their county government establish a system of more direct roads to connect them to the Mississippi landing on the east, Dubuque, via Manchester, on the southeast, and nearby settlements of Fayette, Elkader and Brush Creek - now Arlington. Of course if settlers had homesteads in any close proximity the surveyors or overseers of the roads would take convenient turns and make slight bends in the road to be accommodating. The main objective was to cut roads through the timbered areas to expedite travel. West of the city, roads meandered through the prairie, causing little trouble for those who followed the rutted wagon trails. Most of the early roads were of dirt or of a "corduroy" log base. Gravel roads and streets would come around 1910. Pavement and asphalt roads leading to the city and likewise the brick and mortar streets in town made their appearance with the advent of the automobile.

Henry Ford's Model T reclassified the automobile from a luxury item to a necessity. The arrival of the auto on the scene was thought to be the answer to the problem of pollution. The use of horses caused problems with waste in the streets, the stench of manure piles near livery barns, flies, and all the problems connected with keeping carriage animals in town. It seemed unthinkable then by most to believe auto exhaust would cause as great a health hazard as horses and their carriages.

The intersection of U.S. highways 18 and 150 makes West Union a crossroads of northeast Iowa. Also, highway 56 angles diagonally southeast. Major highway improvements have been made within the past ten years and future planning calls for construction on U.S. 18 east to make the old narrow highway, built for the Model T safe for 1974 cars.

A multitude of problems face the present and ensuing generations in the area of motorized transportation. The solution lies in their adaptability and ingenuity to effect cultural changes.



COMMON TIRE TROUBLE scene near West Union in the 1920's.

## RAILROADS

For a time the Mississippi River served as a natural boundary to contain railroads until the engineering know-how was acquired to build adequate bridges across it.



News of the growth of the railroads with their added convenience to the citizenry of West Union, caused people to actively recruit feeder lines to major trunk lines which crossed the state as early as in the 1860's. Negotiations were carried on with several railroad corporations, each asking large bonuses to provide service to the community, plus public domain land on either side of the track.

The two main contenders for feeder lines to West Union were a company building a narrow gauge rail bed to run from Des Moines, Marshalltown and Waterloo and a standard sized track of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota.

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota Company promised to furnish standard gauge rail capable of linking up with trunk lines for a cost of

train passed over the line Sept. 7, 1873, providing freight and passenger service. This line is now the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad proposed an outlet to the east including West Union. Eventually this system became the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul property and the branch line was built from the Turkey River junction to West Union, with service commencing in 1881. Service on that line continued for a half-century, ending in the 1930's.

Many farmers and towns people found working for the railroad a good way to supplement their incomes. The diaries of a pioneer records that he worked, scraping and plowing for \$4.00 a day, wages for him and his team of horses. The boarding of railroad crews also brought in extra revenue for families.

The life of the town pretty much centered around the depot for many years. Dray wagons hauled freight away from the depots and each of the three hotels in town sent passenger carriages to meet the trains. Heavy business expanded near the railroads to make it easier to both receive and ship goods.

With the advent of large semi-trucks to transport goods, the railroads have seen a steady decline in importance. The railroads were faced with the choice operating at a loss on antiquated track beds or discontinuing service. The railroad served the town of West Union on a limited basis until 1972. At that time negotiations were started for either a private or corporation ownership to purchase the track and right-of-way. At the present time there has been no concrete plan to come from these negotiations. We can only hope the story of the railroad in West Union has not reached its final chapter.

ROCK ISLAND DEPOT, West Union, Iowa.

\$135,000. The rival companies began negotiations with the city fathers and they succeeded in decreasing the bonus asked by the railroad companies by nearly one half or to the sum of \$45,000.

Preference was given to the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota, and energetic efforts were started to raise the money required in the contract. The railroad company agreed to build, equip and operate a railroad from their present line of road, to intersect the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad at or near Postville, by way of West Union and Clermont. Depots would be established along the various townships if the people along the line raised the required amount of aid and free right-of-way. All of the townships which the railroad would pass through voted a five percent tax to help raise the money, with the exception of Harlan and Center. Harlan later voted a three percent tax. Center township was crossed by the Iowa and Pacific railroad. Later this method of raising revenue for the railroads was declared unconstitutional.

It has been said that the struggle for a railroad line to West Union very nearly paralleled the fights to keep the Court House and was just as expensive. West Union raised about \$50,000 of the sum agreed upon, a large portion of which was private contributions.

Work on the railroad commenced between Postville and Clermont on Nov. 9, 1871. The first iron rail in Fayette county was laid Aug. 14, 1872, but the railroad was not completed until the next year. The first through



CHICAGO ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC train wreck near West Union, Sept. 1, 1913.

#### AIRPORT

In 1964 a municipal airport was constructed approximately two miles northeast of the city on land donated by George Scott. This airport is known as Scott Airfield. A municipally-owned hangar is located at the field. From time to time charter services have been available from the airport.

These airport facilities at the present time consist of 2,600 foot lighted turf runway for small aircraft. An expansion program is currently underway which calls for grading additional land to the north of the present airstrip to expand the landing strip to one mile and provide hard surfacing to make the airstrip functional on a year round basis.



# DESCENDENTS OF PIONEERS

MRS. RAY MAYS (MARG HOOVER) m: Ray Mays, farmer  
Daughter of WILL HOOVER, m: Christina Torson  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came to Dover Twp. 1849

MIKE, STEVE, WILLIAM, LINDA DOSCHER, live one mile east of West Union.  
Children of TED DOSCHER, m: Arlys Elsheimer, living east of West Union.  
Son of MRS. HERMAN DOSCHER (PAULINE BLUNT)  
Daughter of HARRY BLUNT, m: Emma Jacobs  
Son of MRS. JESSE BLUNT (EMMA WELLS)  
Daughter of JOSEPH T. WELLS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, Pioneer and founder of West Union.

TED DOSCHER, m: Arlys Elsheimer, living east of West Union.  
Son of MRS. HERMAN DOSCHER (PAULINE BLUNT)  
Daughter of HARRY BLUNT, m: Emma Jacobs  
Son of MRS. JESSE BLUNT (EMMA WELLS)  
Daughter of JOSEPH T. WELLS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, Pioneer and founder of West Union.

MRS. HERMAN DOSCHER (PAULINE BLUNT)  
217 So. Walnut St., West Union.  
Daughter of HARRY BLUNT, m: Emma Jacobs  
Son of MRS. JESSE BLUNT (EMMA WELLS)  
Daughter of JOSEPH T. WELLS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, Pioneer and founder of West Union.

BERNYL WELLS, m: Adella Leik, employed by State Highway.  
Son of EDWARD WELLS, m: Charlotte Heiserman  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, m: Henrietta Wescott  
Son of JOSEPH T. WELLS, m: Rebecca Lippincott, Civil War Vet.  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, Pioneer and founder of West Union.

MRS. GEORGE BLUNT (DOROTHY ILIFF)  
Daughter of ROYAL ILIFF, m: Glenn Woolf, Post Office  
Son of JIM ILIFF, Pump and Windmill work  
Son of BENJAMIN ILIFF, Pioneer came to Eldorado 1849

WARREN ILLIFF, Postman, retired.  
Son of ROYAL ILIFF, m: Glenn Woolf, Post Office  
Son of JIM ILIFF, Pump and Windmill work  
Son of BENJAMIN ILIFF, Pioneer came to Eldorado 1849.

HARRY ILIFF, Retired.  
Son of JIM ILIFF, Pump and Windmill work.  
Son of BENJAMIN ILIFF, Pioneer came to Eldorado 1849.

BERT DOWNS, lives on N. Vine St.  
Son of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Pioneer.  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer, Civil War Vet, died in service

MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer, Civil War vet, died in service

ALVIN, DUANE, LYNN ANN, MARGARET FREY  
Children of MRS. WARREN (BERLE CHRISTENSEN) FREY, lives west of town  
Daughter of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS).  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer, Civil War Vet, died in service.

MRS. WARREN FREY (BERLE CHRISTENSEN)  
lives west of town  
Daughter of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer and Civil War Vet, died in service.

MRS. CLAUDE BRAUSE (IVA BUTLER)  
living in town.  
Daughter of WILLIAM HARRISON BUTLER  
Son of HARRISON WILLIAM BUTLER, Minister and Pioneer.

GARY, PAMELA, BRETT THOREN  
Children of MRS. MERLE THOREN (MERLE CHRISTENSEN)  
Daughter of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. Downs, Civil War Vet  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Civil War Vet, Pioneer, died in service

MRS. MERLE THOREN (MERLE CHRISTENSEN)  
Daughter of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)



Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet.  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer, Civil War Vet, died in service

EMORY CHRISTENSEN  
Son of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet  
son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer, Civil War Vet, died in service

JIM CHRISTENSEN, m: Joyce Sprague  
Son of EMORY CHRISTENSEN  
Son of MRS. MORRIS CHRISTENSEN (ESTHER DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer and Civil War Vet, died in service

RUSS JONES, living in West Union  
Son of MRS. GEORGE JONES (CYNTHIA SMITH)  
Daughter of MRS. CHANCEY SMITH (SUSAN BISHOP)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came May 18, 1849

MRS. CARMIE NORDHUS (RUTH SMITH)  
Daughter of FRANK SMITH  
Son of MRS. CHANCEY SMITH (SUSAN BISHOP)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came May 18, 1849

MRS. SUSIE ROBINS (SUSIE CLARK) lives in original homestead in West Union  
Daughter of WILLIAM CLARK  
Son of LOOKINGS CLARK, Pioneer.

MRS. MADGE CARPENTER (MADGE HACKET), m: Carl Carpenter (now at Co. Farm)  
Daughter of MRS. WILL HACKET (CARRIE DUTTON)  
Daughter of LORENZO DUTTON, Pioneer came in 1849.

LEWIS D. BISHOP, lives in country with PO, West Union.  
Son of H. S. BISHOP, Farmer and school teacher.  
Son of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came May 18, 1849.

LEWIS BISHOP, JR., lives on farm works with school.  
Son of LOUIS BISHOP, SR.  
Son of H. W. BISHOP, Farmer and School teacher.  
Son of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came May 18, 1849.

CLYDE BISHOP, Reitred, staying with Clarence Bishop.

Son of H. W. BISHOP.  
Son of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came May 18, 1849.

SHELIA, MARK, BIRAN & SUSAN STEWART. Children of DELMAR STEWART, m: Naomi Christianson  
Son of MRS. SAM STEWART (MAUDE WELLS).  
Daughter of MATTHEW L. WELLS, m: Adeline Llewelyn.  
Son of JOSHUA WELLS, m: Eliza Butler, Pioneer came in 1849.

DELMAR STEWART, m: Naomi Christianson, lives east of town, PO, West Union.  
Son of MRS. SAM STEWART (MAUDE WELLS)  
Daughter of MATHEW L. WELLS, m: Adeline Llewelyn  
Son of JOSHUA WELLS, m: Eliza Butler, Pioneer came in 1849.

HARLAN WELLS STEWART, lives RR, West Union  
Son of MRS. SAM STEWART (MAUDE WELLS)  
Daughter of MATHEW L. WELLS, m: Adeline Llewelyn  
Son of JOSHUA WELLS, m: Eliza Butler, Pioneer came in 1849.

MRS. WARREN ILLIFF (DOROTHY SMITH)  
Daughter of MRS. EDITH SMITH (EDITH FISH)  
Daughter of MRS. FISH ((FOSTER))  
Daughter of DAVID FOSTER  
Son of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer came in 1849-50.

MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN SCOTT)  
Daughter of MRS. MARIAH SCOTT (MARIAH Foster)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer

RICHARD KOESTER, living at home  
Son of MRS. CHARLIE KOESTER (FRANCES WAGNER)  
Daughter of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN SCOTT)  
Daughter of MRS. SCOTT (MARIAH FOSTER)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

MRS. CHARLES KOESTER (FRANCES WAGNER)  
Daughter of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN SCOTT)  
Daughter of MRS. SCOTT (MARIAH FOSTER)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

CARL WAGNER, JR., m: Mary J. Elmer, lives R. R. 2, West Union.  
Son of CARL WAGNER, m: Vera Fels  
Son of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN SCOTT)  
Daughter of MRS. SCOTT (MARIAH FOSTER)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

11.11.19

11.11.19

11.11.19

and the first is often  
used to denote the new  
one, and the second  
is used to denote the old  
one, and the third  
is used to denote the  
third one.

and the fourth is the fourth.

and the fifth is the fifth.  
and the sixth is the sixth.  
and the seventh is the seventh.

and the eighth is the eighth.

and the ninth is the ninth.  
and the tenth is the tenth.  
and the eleventh is the eleventh.

and the twelfth is the twelfth.

and the thirteenth is the thirteenth.

and the fourteenth is the fourteenth.  
and the fifteenth is the fifteenth.  
and the sixteenth is the sixteenth.

PAUL, RODNEY (In Service) MEREDITH,  
MERRY AND BILL WAGNER  
Children of VERN WAGNER  
Son of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN  
SCOTT)  
Daughter of MRS. SCOTT (MARIAH  
FOSTER)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

JIM, MARY, JEAN, CARROL, SALLY BAUMLER  
Children of MRS. REYNOLD BAUMLER  
(HELEN WAGNER)  
Daughter of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER  
(GLENN SCOTT)  
Daguhter of MRS. SCOTT (MARIAH FOSTER)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

MRS. GENE GUST  
Daughter of MRS. ROBERT BURGESS (AMY  
WAGNER)  
Daughter of MRS. EDWARD WAGNER (GLENN  
SCOTT)  
Daughter of JOSEPH FOSTER, Pioneer.

GEORGE BLUNT, m: Dorothy Iliff. Retired.  
Son of HARRY BLUNT, m: Emma Jacobs  
Son of MRS. JESSE BLUNT (EMMA WELLS).  
Daughter of JOSEPH T. WELLS, m: Rebecca  
Lippincott, Civil War Vet.  
Son of WILLIAM WELLS, Pioneer and founder  
of West Union.

GENE TORSON, living east of West Union.  
Son of MRS. TOM TORSON (EVELYN HOOVER)  
Daughter of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came in  
1849.

BOBBY, TOM, KAREN, STEVE, BRUCE, MARY,  
MOLLY MARSHALL  
Children of MRS. DON MARSHALL (JANE  
KNIGHT)  
Daughter of GARLAND KNIGHT  
Son of MRS. FRED KNIGHT (MELVINA HOOVER)  
Daughter of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came  
in 1849.

JOE, JULIA KNIGHT, living in West Union  
Children of GARLAND KNIGHT  
Son of MRS. FRED KNIGHT (MELVINA HOOVER)  
Daughter of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer  
came in 1849.

GARLAND KNIGHT, living in West Union  
Son of MRS. FRED KNIGHT (MELVINA HOOVER)  
Daughter of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., came to West  
Union in 1849.

MRS. FRED KNIGHT (MELVINA HOOVER),  
living in West Union.  
Daughter of JACOB HOOVER, JR.

Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came in 1849.  
CLIFF BISHOP, 68, Police Force in West Union,  
Former farmer.  
Son of H. W. BISHOP, farmer and school  
teacher.  
Son of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer, came May 18,  
1849.

MRS. LEONARD ANFINSON (CATHERINE  
BISHOP)  
Daughter of H. W. BISHOP  
Son of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer came  
May 18, 1849.

CLAIR CULLINS, Works for State Highway  
Son of CLELL CULLINS  
Son of MRS. ADELIN CULLINS (ADELINE  
BISHOP)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN BISHOP, Pioneer  
came May 18, 1849.

MRS. HOWARD KLINGER (ALMA DOWNS)  
Daughter of GARFIELD DOWNS  
Son of FRANKLIN S. DOWNS, Civil War Vet.,  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer and Civil  
War Vet., died in service

ELBERT MCINTYRE, Retired DX Station Proprietor  
Son of MRS. MOSES MCINTYRE, (ALICE  
DOWNS)  
Daughter of FRANKLIN DOWNS, Civil War  
Vet  
Son of HENRY DOWNS, Pioneer and Civil  
War Vet., died in service

MEREDITH GRANGER, going to high school  
Son of WAYNE GRANGER, Carpenter  
Married Darlene Wolf  
Son of BEULAH (STANSBURY) GRANGER  
m: Lee Granger  
Daughter of JIM STANSBURY, farmer  
south of town.  
Son of JOHN STANSBURY, farmer  
Son of GEORGE STANSBURY, Pioneer, cam  
to West Union 1850.

WAYNE GRANGER, Carpenter, Married  
Darlene Wolf  
Son of BEULAH (STANSBURY) Grange  
m: Lee Granger  
Daughter of JIM STANSBURY, farmer  
Son of JOHN STANSBURY, farmer  
Son of GEORGE STANSBURY, Pioneer  
came to West Union 1850.

THEOBALD PHILIPS (Speed), Garage Proprietor,  
Vine St.  
Son of W. L. PHILIPS, Garage Proprietor.  
Son of MRS. J. E. PHILIPS (EDITH HOOVER)  
Daughter of JOHN L. HOOVER, lived on  
John Drewes Farm.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer  
came to Dover Twp. 1849.

GREG, GARY, GEORGE, GORDEN WINTER



Children of EARL WINTER, drives DX  
gas truck.  
Son of MRS. GEORGE WINTER (BARBARA  
HOOVER)  
Daughter of WILL HOOVER, m: Christina  
Torson  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came  
to Dover Twp. 1849

EARL WINTER, drives DX gas truck.  
Son of MRS. GEORGE WINTER (BARBARA  
HOOVER)  
Daughter of WILL HOOVER,m: Christina  
Torson  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, JR.  
Son of JACOB HOOVER, SR., Pioneer came to  
Dover Twp. 1849.

—O—



CAST OF THE HOME TOWN PLAY "All A Mistake" 1910 standing left to  
right are Mabel Cline, Henry Bemiss, Welcome Wenrick, Lyle Sch-  
westka, Peter Olesen, Anna Rush (Mrs. Harry), Agnes Schwestka;

seated, left to right, Signa Johnson, Frank Morrison, Mrs. Mary Moen,  
Emma Hancock, director.



# HISTORY OF CHURCHES

## BETHIEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bethel Presbyterian church was officially organized June 19, 1867, with 12 charter members. Rev. J. W. Dickey of Ohio became the first minister, and the congregation met in the old M.E. church and the Court House for the first few years.

A new brick building was erected on the site of the present church and dedicated in January of 1872. It was remodeled in 1893 and plans for an additional extension of the church were interrupted when the building was completely ruined by fire on February 11, 1922.

Prompt steps were taken to build a new church on the site of the old one, and the cornerstone was laid on Sept. 17, 1922. Dedication ceremonies were held April 8, 1923.

The property to the south of the church was purchased the same year and a new manse was built there in 1938. The church observed its 75th anniversary on June 28, 1942. The chimes were installed in 1947.

A basement addition to the church was dedicated on Sept. 30, 1951, and practically all of the construction was done by men of the congregation. Completion of the educational addition was carried out in 1960 and the new unit dedicated April 9, 1961. The kitchen was completely rebuilt in 1964 and the front of the sanctuary remodeled in 1966. The church celebrated its Centennial June 17 and



ORIGINAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, originally erected as a Methodist Episcopal church, built in 1871.



PRESBYTERIAN church being destroyed by fire in 1922.

18, 1967, and special recognition given to 23 men and women who had been members for 50 years or more.

Two men have gone out from this congregation to become ministers, the Rev. W. A. Montgomery and the Rev. Barry J. Ukena.

A total of 21 ministers have served in Bethel Presbyterian Church including the present pastor, Rev. William R. Jones.

## WEST UNION WESLEYAN CHURCH

The West Union Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized in September of 1880 by the Rev. A. W. Hall pastor of the church in Elgin. The first meeting took place in the cottage home of Jim Iliff, on Fair Street. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Iliff, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hennings, Frank Crosby and John Phillips.

For several years, the Elgin and West Union congregations shared a pastor.

After a few years of meeting in homes or other churches, a new church building was dedicated in February of 1885, on South Vine Street, where Dr. Freed and his family now live. The next year, a parsonage was built south of the church. Thereafter, there was a steady growth, numerically and spiritually.

Many of the members lived in the extreme south part of town, so in 1903, both church and parsonage were moved to Franklin Street — the parsonage west and south through pasture and Fair Ground, the church down the street and across the tracks, to the present location.

The congregation lost many members over the next few years, as families joined the migration to Oklahoma and other western states, with the result that no pastor was sent to the small group, so the church was closed about 1905, except for an occasional meeting.

In 1914, Rev. A. M. Stephens, Brandon, held a revival meeting, and the church was opened again. Both the church and parsonage have been remodeled and enlarged several times.

The congregation now consists of 53 members besides junior and associate members. Even though it is small, this church has sent out many ministers, minister's wives and missionaries into the Lord's work. They also helped start the Fayette church, and held services at Auburn for many years.

The name is now Wesleyan Church, as the "Methodist" was dropped in a merger with the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1968.



WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH on South Vine, built in 1885. Located where the Dr. David A. Freed home stands today.



## HOLY NAME CATHOLIC CHURCH

Records for the Holy Name Catholic Church of West Union date back to 1861 when the members of the congregation came mostly from the East.

Among those early names we find Owens, Loftus, Snell, Quinn, Garrigan, Cavanaugh, McCue, Dullard, Wimber, Muldowney, Foley and Riley.

The Catholics of this community were served by priests from Elkader, Waucoma and McGregor.

The original number of members increased until it was felt that Holy Name Church should have a resident priest, and the Rev. Patrick McMahon came to West Union in 1879. From his records we find the first baptisms and marriages.

Succeeding priests were Fathers L. H. Burns, P. F. Cooney, J. Mulligan, C. S. Regan, T. Fitzgerald, H. F. Roney and M. F. Toomey.

Holy Name Mt. Calvary Cemetery, three miles southeast of West Union, was purchased from Foleys for \$50 in 1886 and was deeded to Bishop Hennessy. It was enlarged in 1932.

During the time of Father Mulligan's service from 1888 to 1902, a paid choir, all non-Catholic, sang High Mass on Sundays. Likewise there was organized the nucleus of the present Rosary Society. Also in this time the church was built in Hawkeye.

Father Fitzgerald, upon his arrival in 1912, felt the need of a larger church. One year later, he contracted

for the erection of a new church for the sum of \$43,000, and the old property was sold. The present church was built in 1913 and the present rectory in 1914. Father Roney began beautifying the church and grounds in 1915. In his own yard he erected two small shrines.

Rev. J. H. Roche succeeded Father Toomey in 1937 and was in turn succeeded by Rev. E. L. Cooney in 1944. Under Father Cooney's leadership the missions at Fayette and Hawkeye were detached from Holy Name Parish with Fayette becoming an established parish taking Hawkeye as its mission.

Father Cooney brought about a second change in the direction of parish life when he founded a parochial school. The parish purchased the large building (Burnham and Wood Funeral Parlors) south of the rectory and remodeled it to provide living quarters for the Sisters and classrooms. In September, 1952 Holy Name School opened its doors to 75 pupils. This number gradually increased until the peak enrollment figure reached 135. Three Sisters of Charity made up the original faculty, and one lay teacher was added in 1960.

Cooney was succeeded by Rev. K. M. Ryan who served until 1965 when the Rev. Eugene J. Weimer came to West Union.

Holy Name School formally closed in May, 1968. The Sisters of Charity could no longer staff the school because of a shortage in the number of teaching Sisters. During the summer months of 1968, Father Weimer set about organizing a Confraternity of Christian Doctrine School of Religion for Holy Name Parish. Six parishioners were elected to serve as members of the Holy Name Board of Education. A teaching staff of 15 laymen and laywomen were recruited to conduct religion classes. Student enrollment in the CCD School of Religion for 1972-73 numbered 183 grade school students and 80 high school students. Eleven classrooms are used in the program.

In recent years extensive repairs and renovation to Holy Name Church and Holy Name rectory have been completed.

Holy Name Church today numbers about 140 families. Farm families make up about 45 percent of the parish.

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In the summer of 1850, Rev. H. S. Brunson, presiding elder of the Otter Creek Mission, designated West Union as an "appointment." This was the beginning of the Methodist Church in West Union. The first thing that was done toward an organization was to establish what were known as "Classes" of prospective members, each of which was headed by a "Class Leader."

The first class in 1850 consisted of Mrs. Elizabeth Cook, Mrs. Lucinda Stafford, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Foster, Mrs. Ellen Gruzan, and G. P. Slayton. Fitch's History of Fayette County states that the first local preachers were Reverend J. B. Hollingshead and Rev. Eliza Hartsough. Their names do not appear in the church records, and it is not known whether they were ordained ministers or were simply members of the congregation.

There are church records of classes and class leaders for a period of 20 years, after which this system seems to have been abandoned. Class leaders whose names appear most frequently in the early records are Levi Fuller, J. S. Gruver, C. R. Bent, Daniel W. Hall, Evans Camp, E. B. Wakeman, William Harper, Theodore Newcomb, Paul Hill, John Weaver, A.



FIRST HOLY NAME CATHOLIC church built in 1870.



McMullen, Michael Kraemer, Jasper Snyder and William James. The "classes" appear to have served as sort of a probationary period, after which most of the class members were admitted to full membership in the church.

The first incorporation of the church was Sept. 26, 1865, and the church was named the "First Methodist Episcopal Church of West Union" by Articles recorded Sept. 29, 1865. These records named the following as the first Board of Trustees of the church: Levi Fuller, Curtis R. Bent, Benjamin Heiserman, Michael Kraemer, Daniel W. Hall, William Ash and Theodore Newcomb.

The name of the church was changed to "First Methodist Church" on Aug. 29, 1940, pursuant to requirements of the Uniting Conference of 1939, and in 1968, it was changed once more to "The United Methodist Church of West Union, Iowa" because of the union with the E.U.B. Church.



THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL church, built in West Union in 1853. In later years it was used as an ice house and a tobacco storage warehouse, and torn down in 1902.

For the first three years the church owned no buildings, but held services in the log school house which was situated on the corner of Elm and Pine Streets, where the home of Mrs. Edith Colburn is now located. In 1853, a frame church was constructed through the energy, leadership and generosity of Dr. Levi Fuller, Curtis R. Bent, J. S. Brewer and others, during the ministry of Rev. J. R. Cameron. This church was located across the alley west from the present West Union Fire Station. A second church building was constructed on the site of the present church during the years 1866 to 1868, during the ministry of Rev. William Fawcett.

During the ministry of Rev. Merton S. Rice, the third building, which is the one now being used, was constructed. The old church was moved to the back of the lot, turned around and bricked in as the south part of the present building. This church was dedicated April 22, 1902, with Bishop J. W. Hamilton giving the address.

The first parsonage was bought in 1855 and was located on Plum street at the site of the present home of P. B. Foss. This building burned in 1859 and was replaced by a second parsonage, built at the same place. The present parsonage was built about 1898.

Church records for the first 20 years are not very accurate, but from what is found from Conference and Local records, 53 ministers have served this church in the past 124 years. The present pastor, Rev. Byron W. Ayers, came to West Union in June 1969.

The first Sunday School of this church was organized in 1853 with J. S. Brewer as superintendent. Some others who served as Sunday School superintendents for long periods of time were D. W. Clements, who was a prominent West Union lawyer, and at one time was Grand Master of Masons in Iowa; Frank Camp, a prominent West Union banker, who was a member of this church for 62 years; Walter H. Beall, editor of the Argo Gazette, and Robert Hoover, a local preacher of the church (1933-1944) who now operates a hatchery at Rudd, Iowa. For about 40 years, Mrs. Cora A. Darnall had charge of the primary department, and many of our present church members have happy memories of attendance in her classes. Some others not on the present staff who served as teachers for long periods of time are Mrs. C. C. Brink, Mrs. Ed Ostrander, Miss Eva Bradley, W. H. Antes, J. R. Jensen, T. F. Richards, Frank Camp, Mrs. Ella Humphry, Miss May Lambert and Miss Cora Hackett.

The original young people's organization of the church was established about 1880 and was known as the "Oxford League." The name was soon changed to the "Epworth League," which continued until 1940, when it was changed to the "Methodist Youth Fellowship." This organization has been very active over a long period of years.

The women's organization, which has undertaken many valuable projects for the church, is dealt with in a separate article in this book.

A pipe organ was installed in the church in the year 1912, with Mrs. O. W. Heiserman as the first church



THE SECOND METHODIST CHURCH, built in 1866. This structure was turned around, and now composes the southern portion of the building now standing.





METHODIST MEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 1927 — From left to right, seated, Wyman Trudo, Roy Carmichael, Jim Tope, J. R. Jensen, George Archer, J. M. Jobe, Rev. Billingsly, Bert Hall, Alex Smith, M. L. Rowland, Lynn Grimes, S. B. Carter; standing, Harry Humphry, Ezra Rowland, Albert Swale, Clark Windhurst, Frank Camp, Charley Roberts, John Ocker, A. J. Knarr, R. W. Humphry, Charles Swale, Yank Schroyer, Ham House, Hughie Randall, E. Webb, Ross Whitcher.

unidentified, unidentified, Frank Schroyer, Oliver Berg, E. H. Wendland, Roy F. Flind, John Rowland, Ruel Camp, Grover Blunt, unidentified, unidentified, Lee Granger, Lester Meyers, Bob Smith, unidentified, Fred Gruver, W. H. Antes, Charley Schoonover, Harry Schmidt; on steps, Mr. Runion, J. H. Cline, George Schiatter, Bert Swale, Vern McGriff, unidentified, unidentified, Lou Berkey, Charles Kohler, A. D. Ferguson, unidentified, S. M. Foote.

organist. She was followed by Mrs. Sarah Hobson, who was a distinguished musician, and established a great reputation for pipe-organ work during the many years she served this church. Others who have served in recent years were Mrs. Ruth Crowe and Larry Potter. In 1958 the organ was completely rebuilt and the choir was also rebuilt and furnished with new seats. The present organist is Mrs. Lois Meyer.

The following are the current principal officers of the church: Chairman Administrative Board, Joe Hoopes; treasurer, Harold Gruver; financial secretary, Phil Stucky; lay leaders, John Havener and Gene Wood; church school superintendent, Mrs. Gay Bowden; president United Methodist Women, Mrs. E. L. Andrew. The trustees are Floyd Whitford, president; Mrs. E. L. Andrew, vice-president; W. H. Antes, treasurer; Harold Tope, A. K. Frey, Harold Conner, Arnold Sanders, Kenneth Jensen and Everett Biermann.

In recent years many improvements have been made in the church. From 1958 to 1962 the ground floor Sunday School area was completely rebuilt and the area between the balconies was enclosed. This resulted in the addition of new classrooms, a choir room, Junior choir area, a nursery, and a sound-proof "cry room." During this time, the entire basement area was also rebuilt, giving several new classrooms, new restrooms, improving the kitchen, and doubling the dining area. The main entrance to the church was entirely rebuilt with larger areas of brick and cement work. Since then the

sanctuary has been redecorated and new carpeting has been installed.

During the years 1963-64 much work was done on the parsonage. This included the substantial changing of room areas, improvement of basement, kitchen and bathroom areas, replacement of the heating system, and the installation of carpeting. On the outside new sidewalks and a cement porch with iron railings were added, the house was covered with new aluminum siding, and a double garage was built.

The church now has a membership of 601; the Sunday School, an enrollment of 180; and the United Methodist Women number 150.

#### REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH

The regular Baptist church of West Union was organized by eleven people on Oct. 23, 1852. The first services were held in the homes and the old log school house. In 1853, a small building was erected and used until 1866. The present building was completed in 1867. Lorenzo Dutton, one of the first settlers of Union Township was one of the church members. The present parsonage was built in 1904. The church was damaged by fire in 1910 and was rebuilt and remodeled.

Many prominent people have been identified with this congregation. Dr. F. B. Whitmore was for many years a missionary and resident secretary for the Y.M.C.A. in Nanking, China; J. S. Clough was a missionary in India; Rev. Alva Bush established the Cedar Valley Seminary at Osage, and Colonel Alonzo



Abernathy was principal of said seminary for many years. Rev. E. H. Gillet, Rev. Fred Dean and Rev. Stanley A. Gillet are among the best known pastors.

Rev. Clair Wagner of Fayette was interim pastor from August 1966 to July 1968 when Rev. Daniel Heringer came to Iowa from North Dakota to serve the Sumner and West Union Baptist churches. He resigned May 27, 1973, to return to Goodyear, N. Dak. At the present time Rev. Clair Wagner, Fayette, is interim pastor again.

The Church has 39 resident members. Services are held every Sunday with morning worship at 9 a.m. and Sunday school at 10 a.m.

There is an active Women's Missionary Society and Young People's group. The parsonage is rented out to help pay for the expenses of the church.



**BAPTIST CHURCH** photo taken in 1902. Built in 1867 at the corner of North Vine and Adams streets. Building at right is the Haines furniture and casket factory, which was replaced by the Baptist parsonage in 1904. Picket fence at the right enclosed the Owens property. At the rear of the Baptist church is the Ziegler house.



**ST. OLAF LUTHERAN** church on South Pine street, home of the congregation since 1912. It was originally built as a United Brethren church.

#### ST. OLAF CHURCH

Norwegian Lutherans of West Union had no church building in 1912 but met in the United Brethren Church for 50¢ each Sunday.

Rev. Ole Andreson, pastor of the First Lutheran Church in the county, drove his horse and buggy the 12 miles to West Union year around to hold services twice each month.

By the year 1913, the United Brethren congregation was too small to continue and wanted to dispose of its church building, which had been constructed in 1878. The Norwegians bought the church for \$1,000 and formally organized a congregation in the building which they still occupy on pine street. The church was named the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church and was part of the Hauge Lutheran Synod.

The name was changed to St. Olaf Lutheran Church in 1917. Rev. O. Sheveland succeeded Rev. Andreson and was then succeeded by Rev. G. O. Mona. The congregation was without a pastor for about six months until Rev. H. T. Braa was installed in 1940. He served for just a year and was then called into the military service as a chaplain. Rev. J. A. Quello was the pastor until he resigned in 1942 due to poor health.

In 1942, Rev. E. O. Ulring was installed at St. Olaf. During his 12-year pastorate, the St. Olaf congregation celebrated its 35th anniversary in 1948. Next came Rev.

Ivan Vallem who served four years. While he was at St. Olaf, the question about merging with Zion Lutheran Church arose several times. The vote failed to be passed, and about 47 families did not leave the church.

Rev. M. C. Thompson came in 1959, and under his leadership 15 families joined the church. In 1963 the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Due to failing health, Rev. Thompson resigned from the ministry a year later, and was followed by Rev. R. M. Christensen and now the church is served by Rev. Harold Sutter.

#### ZION LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

The history of our Zion Lutheran Congregation, like that of the American Lutheran Church itself, is the moving account of the growing cooperation among Lutherans of several nationality backgrounds. The history of Zion Congregation is linked especially with Lutherans of German and Scandinavian background whose ancestors laid the foundation stones of several Lutheran congregations in this area.

The first Lutherans to come to this general area of West Union were Norwegians. Among these early pioneers were Colben Saboe, Nels Knudson and Ole Larson, who settled on farms in Dover Township in 1850.





OLD BRICK CHURCH of Windsor Township built in 1875, home of the first Lutheran congregation.

It was in 1850 that the First Lutheran Church was organized by Pastor Elling Eielsen who was the first ordained Norwegian Lutheran pastor in America.

In the year 1855, John Martin and John Dietel, and perhaps other German Lutherans, settled on farms in Windsor township, west of here. It may have been about that time, that the first Lutheran service was held in West Union by one of the pioneers of the German Lutheran Iowa Synod. In the history of St. Peter's congregation of Eldorado we read the interesting story that Peter Schatz and John Trapp of that community attend this service. Since none wanted to stay at home from this service to take care of the few cattle that they had, they tied their cows behind their wagons, loaded with sufficient feed, and brought them along to church.

It appears that services were held periodically in West Union in the late fifties, but when it came to organizing a congregation, it was deemed advisable to build the church headquarters in Windsor township, a few miles west of here, where most of the Lutherans lived. This congregation known as Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Windsor township was organized on Christmas Day 1859 with 12 families. A brick church, 28' by 42' was erected in 1875. A 623 pound bell was purchased and dedicated on June 25, 1881. This old bell, hanging in the belfry of our church, is still calling God's people to worship and prayer. This congregation faithfully served its people for 63 years, until May 14, 1922, when it was disbanded.

During many of these years the pastors of this "Old Brick Church," also served a congregation of Lutherans here in West Union, which met in a private home and in the Baptist Church. This congregation was never strong enough to build its own church, or to support a resident

pastor and discontinued in about the year 1918. We have a record of 622 baptisms in both the Windsor and the West Union congregations.

Our own Zion Lutheran congregation was organized as Zion English Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 17, 1923. Rev. J. F. Lorch, then Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Maynard, presided at this meeting. The new congregation elected Edward Neumann and Fritz Gundacker as deacons; Gottfried Martin, John Lueder, sr., and Emil Moschel as trustees; W. C. Tegtmeier as secretary; and Henry Koenche as treasurer.

Other charter members included Fred Blessin, Fred Haller, Mrs. Minnie Hoyer, Mrs. David Kuehling, Chris Martin, Louis Mittelstadt, William Mittelstadt, Louis Neumann, Walter Neumann, John Pape, Henry Popenhagen, Arthur Quandt, John Quandt, George Quandt, George Reisner, Henry Reisner, Louis Reisner, Theodore Reisner, A. J. Schuler, Martin Scholl, William Scholl, Mrs. Henry Schroeder, Otto Schuchmann, Will Springer, Albert Stahr, William Stahr, jr., Henry Strudthoff, Leo C. Strudthoff, Richard Strohschein, Maurice Sullivan, George Wuest, John Wuest, Lee Wuest and Fred Weitenhagen, as well as their respective wives and families.

During these five decades the congregation has been served by only six pastors. Pastor Lorch drove over from Maynard, often bringing his church choir with him and conducted services on Sunday afternoons. He served about a year. Rev. A. Hugo Lutz, was installed in May, 1924. After 14 years Pastor Lutz resigned in February, 1938. On July 3, 1938, Rev. Carl Bartels was installed as pastor and served nine-and-one-half years. Rev. E. C. Franke was installed on April 18, 1948. He served for almost 10 years until February of 1958. On Aug. 31, 1958, Rev. Paul T. Meyer was installed.

Pastor Meyer guided the congregation faithfully during the construction of its present building. He retired on June 27, 1971, but continued to serve on an interim basis until August 29, 1971, when Pastor Duane R. Lindberg was installed. Under his leadership the congregation has placed special emphasis on its worldwide mission. In response to the "Great Commission," Zion voted in May, 1972, to sponsor a world missionary. Pastor Gary V. Blumanthal was chosen and was called to New Guinea in September, 1972, and is sponsored fully by Zion Congregation.

During its first 15 years this congregation had no church building of its own. Services were held in the old



ZION ENGLISH LUTHERAN church was built in 1938. This structure was replaced by the current Zion Lutheran church building, dedicated in 1959.



Universalist Church, in the assembly room of the Court House, and in the St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

In 1923, the congregation purchased the "Hobson" property for \$4,500. The residence was used as a parsonage and for confirmation instruction. Under the leadership of Rev. Carl Bartels the first church was erected in 1938, and dedicated on Dec. 18, 1938. The complete edifice was 34 by 56 and cost \$7,000. In 1948, the old parsonage was sold and the present parsonage erected next to the church.

During the pastorate of E. C. Franke the first \$40,000 was gathered for a new church. These funds were

augmented by a legacy of over \$11,000 from the Willian Otte estate. The plans for our present church structure were also made at this time. In 1958, the membership of the congregation was greatly strengthened, when 41 families from St. Olaf Congregation followed the merger spirit of our synodical bodies and affiliated with Zion. Thus strengthened, the congregation passed resolution to let contracts for our present church edifice, which was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 1, 1959.

During the first 50 years there were 935 baptisms, 68 confirmations, 302 marriages and 241 funerals. Today we have more than 935 baptized souls, of whom 680 are confirmed.

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## Old Things and Old Times

By Mrs. George Blunt

Would you have any idea that one of West Union's first buildings is still standing and still in use? It is a long story, and an interesting one, beginning in 1850.

Daniel Cook, the grandfather of Miss Mae Lambert, was one of the town's first merchants. His store was about where Dr. Walsh's office is now located. His farm was in the north part of town — in fact, Cook Street ran right through it.

In the fall of 1850, he started a hotel on the corner of Vine and Elm Street (where Brown's store now stands), on land bought from William Wells, founder of West Union. Not much was accomplished during the winter, and when spring came, he sold the partially-built hotel to the Staffords. At the same time, Mr. Leverich was starting another hotel at the east end of the same block, where Traeger's Jack and Jill stands. The rivalry was keen in the new town, as carpenters vied with each other to see which one would be finished first. Leverich had a July 4th deadline to meet, and the framing for his building was up first, but Stafford's was really finished and ready for business before the one at the east end of the block. The Staffords later sold it, and it changed hands several times, but it was called "The West Union House" throughout most of its years.

It was a frame, two-story, inn-type structure, having a long porch along the north side, with plenty of room for the usual viewers, anxious to see whatever "new thing under the sun" might come up.

West Union's first drug store was located in the northwest corner of this hotel, Dr. Stafford's office and the first tailor shop, as well as an early shoemaker's shop opened for business there. A big Christmas party was held in the large room on the second floor, Christmas evening, 1851.

The first term of court was held in July, 1852, in the same room where the Christmas party had been held the winter before. It is said that when the judge asked the deputy sheriff, Simeon Forbes, to begin court, Forbes, being new at the job, put his head out the window and yelled, "Boys, court's begun." When the session was over, he closed it in the same informal way, yelling, "Boys, court's quit."

The various proprietors enjoyed a good trade over the years, in spite of the fact that most of the time there

were four hotels in town. Many settlers here without their families roomed and boarded there, as well as travelers in and out. During the late 70's, fifty-one names were on the register for one night, fifty-four the next.

When the Fullers decided to build their "brick block," in 1882 or 1883, the hotel was moved off to make place for the new business building.

And where is it now? Well, half of it was formerly the George Mott residence on Linden Street. When it was torn down a few years ago, the men who did the work said it was framed like a barn, rather than like the houses of today. The other half is the Truman Meyer home at 114 Linden Street directly across from the Bemiss Distributing Co.). If those walls could talk, what stories they could tell of the progress of West Union from a tiny village on Knob Prairie, to the thriving county seat town we have today.

Who remembers the standpipe? The standpipe, that tall black tube that dominated the West Union skyline for more than forty years.

Along with the city water systems, it was installed in early 1892, after a long period of discussion, debate, and finally a vote by the people. The old-timers watched as the twelve-foot pipe grew by a five-foot sections, until it reached its full 100 feet, thereby becoming for always the measure of 100 feet for those who grew up in its shadow! The railing around the top added to the safety of any workmen who were obliged to work on the top, as well as making it more attractive. It held 88,000 gallons of water, no small amount, and even then occasionally the trusty pump would outdo itself, and the pipe would overflow, down the side, across the north courtyard lawn, and into the street.

The top wasn't open to the sky, as I imagined when I was little, but covered with a thick wooden platform.

The ladder up the side was forbidden territory to young folks, but the challenge of the spring class fights usually proved too much, and some fine morning a couple of weeks before the closing of school, the senior colors of, perhaps, blue and silver could be seen twined in and out through the lofty railing. These would flutter gaily for a day or two, then the morning sun would show, instead, banners of rose and green, or whatever the junior colors might be that year.

In about 1934, though, a need for major repairs developed, and because of the growing requirements of the town, the city dads decided to put up a modern water tower. So, after due time and process, the old landmarks came down, replaced by our larger tower, complete with West Union sign, fire siren, weather vane, radio antenna and red light for passing aircraft.

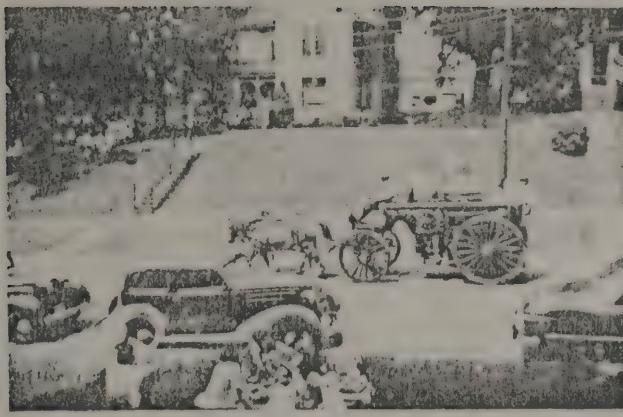


# CENTENNIAL 1949



AL BEALMER in his centennial dress costume.





PARADE UNITS IN 1949 centennial parade.



AL BEALMER



MR. AND MRS. ART RUPP AND CLEONE.



GEORGE WALDRON, left, and Dutch Grimes, right





THE PRESIDENTS — Dick Westerfield, Max Masmar, Ed Traeger,  
mayor of West Union; Lorenz Schatz, president of the school board; Will  
Philips, head of Fire Department.

1980550



LORENZ SCHATZ, bride at shot-gun wedding in 1949 centennial.



MARTIN AND MARY FREY, King and Queen of Centennial.  
The couple was married in January of 1882.





MAYOR AND MRS. E. A. TRAEGER, West Union Centennial.



JULY 1949 — Mrs. Pete Foss, Mrs. Ethel Heiserman, Miss Anna Quamme, Mrs. Lula Fuller and Max Masmer with his prize winning beard.



MAX MASMER



# SERVICE, CIVIC AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS



WEST UNION CITY HALL, photo taken from Sept. 2, 1914, issue of the "West Union Argo-Gazette."

## CITY ADMINISTRATION

The city of West Union presently encompasses two square miles of land. For political purposes the city boundaries have been detached from Union township and is officially designated as West Union township. The city is divided into three wards for governing purposes.

A Mayor-Council type of government serves as the legislative body of the city and administrators to its needs. The council consists of five persons, one from each ward and two elected at large. Both the mayor and councilmen serve two-year terms.

The men responsible for the city government as of the 1973 election, taking office Jan. 1, 1974, are as follows: Charles Weidemann, mayor; Dick Clark, councilmen, first ward; Ken Robinson, councilman, second ward; Jim Nesvik, councilman, third ward; Clarence Durscher and Ken Schatz, councilmen-at-large. Two additional officials who serve the city are Bruce Crandall, treasurer, and Mrs. Alice Koempel, city attorney.

City administrative offices are located in the old City Hall building on the corner of South Vine and Plum streets. This is a 70-year-old, two-story, brick and stone

building with a basement ground level. This ground level houses the police department, while the main floor serves as city clerk's office and city council meeting room. The top floor has recently been redecorated for use as a community hall and can accommodate large group meetings.

## Services

Many services are provided by the city to the residents of West Union in addition to municipally owned buildings such as the hospital, library and fire station. (Detailed accounts of these appear elsewhere in this book.)

Currently four men are employed by the police force. Two squad cars are used for law enforcement purposes in the city and both radar and radio units are maintained to enable the men to work closely with both the Highway Patrol and county law enforcement officials. The City Police Department has an annual budget of \$34,000.

## UTILITIES

There is a municipally-owned water system which pumps water from four wells. A sewer system serves 99 percent of the community. At the present time plans are underway for a new, larger capacity water tower to be built and in operation by 1974, and likewise a new sewage treatment and waste disposal plant to be built to help the ecology of the area.

A street lighting system is provided by the city to all major areas of the city. Records show that the switch over from gas to electric street lights was probably in 1897.

## RECREATION

Cooperation between the school and the city result in a summer recreation program for the young people of the community and the city helps maintain some athletic facilities such as tennis courts and ball fields.

The city also has set aside land for three city parks. Lions Park consists of three acres and is in the north-central part of the city and was so named because the local Lions has helped in the developing of the park facilities.

Clark Park, one acre in the southeastern section of town, has undergone extensive development in 1972 and 1973. New playground equipment and shelter houses are making this a popular recreation area for Unionland youngsters.

Lilac Park, four acres in the northeast area of the city, along North Pine Street is as yet undeveloped.

In 1966, the city built a swimming pool on land owned by the school on North Pine street. Red Cross swim lessons are given in the heated pool, for children of the area school districts and interested adults.

A current annual budget of \$12,000 operates the total recreation program. Two-thirds of this budget is financed from tax funds and the remainder from income from the pool.

Howard Russler

Mildred's Beauty Shop



In addition to hiring a police department and recreation employees the city hires persons for street maintenance duties, snow removal and purchase equipment and maintain public buildings.

The municipal government and its services to the community is financed by 30.5 percent of the total taxes, collected annually from the residents of the city.

#### AMERICAN LEGION

West Union Post No. 15. April 5, 1919, a group of Veterans met at the Court House in West Union and formed a temporary organization of "World War Veterans," naming the following as temporary officers: James D. Cooney, commander; C. D. Mercer, vice-commander; W. H. Antes, treasurer, and B. B. Finch, adjutant.

As soon as it was announced that applications for charters for American Legion Posts were being accepted in Iowa, a group of 17 local veterans signed a petition for a charter. This petition was rushed to Des Moines by automobile in an overnight trip. Post numbers were awarded in the order in which petitions were received and West Union received the designation of Post No. 15.

The permanent organization of West Union Post No. 15 was completed on Aug. 22, 1919, and the first permanent officers to serve were Ray Fels, commander; J. D. Cooney, vice-commander; B. B. Finch, adjutant; Lyle E. Smith, treasurer; Reed McIlree, historian, and Walter H. Beall, chaplain. Mr. Fels is still a member of the post.

In 1919 the American Legion was designated to take over Memorial Day services from the G.A.R., and has continuously participated in these services since that date. One of the duties performed on that day is the placing of flags on the graves of all veterans in five area cemeteries. W. H. Antes served as chairman of this committee for 42 continuous years and was awarded a life membership in West Union Post No. 15 on Aug. 13, 1960 in recognition of his faithful service. Since 1960 Paul Oelberg has been responsible for this service.

Post No. 15 has participated in many community service activities. For many years it was the sponsor of local Boy Scout troops. It has sponsored a boy each year to Boys' State. It has made substantial donations to many community projects, donations of \$1,000 to the building fund of the Fayette County Court House, and a like amount to the addition to Palmer memorial Hospital are examples. The American flags and the welcome flags that fly on the streets on holidays and other special occasions are a gift by Post No. 15 to the city.

Two members of Post No. 15 have served the American Legion in higher offices. King R. Palmer and E. T. Alcorn both served as commanders of the 4th Iowa District. Mr. Alcorn also served as Iowa Department vice-commander. R. F. Estey was the first WW II veteran to serve as post commander. Robert Stendel was the first Korean War Veteran to serve in that capacity, and Steve Robinson, the first Vietnam veteran to be so honored.

Present officers include Steve Robinson, commander; Dave Martin, vice-commander; Gene Alcorn, adjutant; Marvin Saboe, finance officer; A. D. Bernau, sergeant-at-arms; J. Sidney Crowe, service officer, and Richard Donohue, G.A.G.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

A most valuable asset to any community is a good Fire Department and West Union has been blessed with such a force since it was organized in 1876.

C. C. Wright served as Chief of the West Union Volunteer Fire Department from 1908 to 1937. He was succeeded by W. L. Philips who had become a member in 1911. W. L. Philips served as Chief from 1937 to 1956 and had 45 years service to the department when he resigned as chief in 1956. He was succeeded by his son, L. T. (Speed) Philips who is present chief since 1956.



FIRE DEPARTMENT IN 1939 — Above: Bill Ball, Hugh Randall, Welcome Wenrick, Harry Turner, Jake Willison, Hal Sturch, Speed Philips, Roy McCauley, D. Smith, Fergie Sturch, Tom Sullivan, Charles Hidinger, Ruel Randall, Charles Wright, Aulden Oelberg, Mark Schatz, Carl Kohler, Del Northrup; lower, Claude Brause, Harry Rush, Henn Bemiss, Seth Schroyer, Ted Dorland, Charles Kohler, Jakie Schroyer, Will Philips, Clell Collins.

The Fire Department has been challenged by many costly fires over the years and has been assistance in many Mutual Aid calls to other towns, such as Fayette, Oelwein, Maynard, Charles City when they were struck by tornados.

November 11, 1966 the department organized our first local ambulance service. In 1973 twelve firemen completed "Emergency Medical Technicians Courses" and equipped with a new ambulance purchased by the community the same year.

On January 1, 1971 the fire station was moved from the basement of the City Hall to the present fire station on South Vine street which houses two pumper, tanker and the new ambulance. Practice meetings are held each Thursday evening.

There are 28 volunteer firemen at the present time and we feel because of their continued service to the

**Don Stoessel**

**Chalet Flowers & Gifts**

June Adair



community they should be named: L. T. Philips, Chief; Charles Broghammer, 1st Assistant Chief; Virgil Pratt, 2nd Asst. Chief; Charles Weidemann, Captain; Gordon Lauer, Howard Smith, Arnold Kleppe, Bob Stendel, Harold Blessing, Willis Weidemann, Roger Schmelzer, Clarence Durscher, Merlin Dunt, Harry Henry, Dick Chicken, Dick Miller, Larry Daniels, Bob Gage, Lyle Alcorn, Secretary-Treasurer; Jim Weber, Tom Hoey, Don Granger, Dick Clark, LeRoy Soppe, Virgil Smith, Mike Moser.

#### COURT HOUSE

The dominating structure of the city of West Union is the county court house, one of the most beautifully appointed county court houses in existence. To look at it one would never wonder at the turmoil the county has gone through concerning this building and its predecessors.

One must acquaint themselves briefly with the history of the county to fully understand the story.

Territorially speaking, Fayette county was originally one of the largest counties ever organized. In 1837, its boundaries included an area of about 140,000 square miles. It included within its limits all of the present state of Minnesota west of the Mississippi River,

29, 1850, by John M. Gay, surveyor of Clayton county. In the articles describing the location and sub-divisions of the village, a plot of ground four hundred feet square, near the center of the village was set apart, through the generosity of Well, Rogers, and Lybrand, and designated as the Public Square. It was stipulated that this land would be given to Fayette county for public buildings should the county seat be located at West Union. In case of removal of the county seat, the "Square" was to revert to the town of West Union, Wells also donated seven acres of land, lying within the platted boundaries of the town, which was to be divided into lots and sold with the proceeds to be used to help build the court house.



FAYETTE COUNTY'S SECOND COURT HOUSE, pictured here in 1908, was built in 1872 and destroyed by a blazing fire in 1922.



FIRST COURT HOUSE in Fayette county was destroyed by fire in 1872.

except a small tract in the southeast corner. Nearly all the counties in northeastern Iowa, and some others, were formed in whole or part, from territory originally embraced in Fayette county. This territory was only a "paper county," and had no real organization until reduced to its present boundaries in 1847.

During a pioneer celebration on July 1, 1849, William Wells conceived the idea of laying out a town, on a site known then as Knob Prairie, to be called West Union.

The actual plotting of West Union was done on April

In 1850, Fayette county was fully organized but without any county seat. When the Third General Assembly convened at Iowa City, Dec. 3, 1850, Fayette county was represented in the House by Eliphalet Price. Mr. Price drafted a bill which became law and allowed for an election to be held on the first Monday of April in 1851, for the voters to choose a site for a county court house from five different locations. These locations were: Centerville, at the center of the county; Lightville, near Light Mill on the Volga River; West Union, Douglas, now Auburn, and Clermont.

An election the first Monday in May of 1851, decided the matter of which of the two towns receiving the highest number of votes in the April election would become the county seat. West Union was chosen by vote of the people over Lightville. However, before the first court house building could be erected a vote in August of 1853 was held to remove the county seat. The result favored retaining West Union as the county seat.

The next hundred years would find the location of the county court house to be the most argued about question facing the constituents of Fayette county. This book treats the controversy surrounding the three different court houses and the two court house fires in more detail elsewhere.

The third and present new Fayette county court house was dedicated on Oct. 9, 1924, with a barbecue, band concert and speeches. Dancing was done at the Court House itself, and at the Opera House. Newspaper

Moss Brothers Mobil

West Union Oil Co.





SECOND COURT HOUSE FIRE — February 5, 1922.

reports tell that there was a persistent drizzling rain on the day of the dedication which prevented many people from attending. The "Union" of Oct. 16, 1924 states, "the Court House in which they are all interested will not be dedicated again during the life time of this generation — for we have a court house that will stand the test of time and we are proud of it." Reading between the lines, this probably means that they had the architects and construction engineers make it as fire proof as they could possibly make a building.

A souvenir dedication booklet describes the new Court House thus:

The superstructure of the Fayette County Court House is constructed of Gray Bedford Stone. The building rises majestically from a base of granite, the whole scheme of architecture being classic and grand.

The building was designed with the utmost care, is complete in detail and arrangement, and is harmonious and pleasing in all its parts.

The building stands north and south, facing west and is ninety feet wide by one hundred and sixteen feet in length.

The building is three stories in height (sic) with basement and attic . . .

The main entrance to the building is on the west; it is of solid bronze construction, massive and impressive in appearance, and will stand unaffected by the elements for many generations to come.

The "Court House fights" of the past are a page of history and as the citizens of the town gaze at the solid grey structure it evokes a feeling of security and permanence. Each holiday season finds the court house dressed in season finery and its lighted outline shines out for everyone to see when nearing the city.

There are those, however, who still recall the squabbles of the past and we aren't so far removed from this tumultuous time of county history that all the wounds have healed from the court house battles, especially the 1920's skirmish with Oelwein.

A "Union" reporter summed up the situation quite

well when he said, "It will almost certainly be in the best interest of a peaceful Fayette county if the court house never burns again."

Fran Bowden



WEST UNION FEB. 5, 1922  
WEST WALL of Court House after tower had fallen, Feb. 5, 1922.

#### FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

The Fayette County Fair was organized in 1854 and has operated continuously since that date. Originally the Fair was held on the Courthouse Square, and then, from time to time, land was acquired south of Otter Creek and extended to the present Fairgrounds of today. The present race track in front of the grandstand is the third track built on the grounds.

Each year the association continues to sponsor a fair and is known as one of the oldest in Iowa. Highlights have been many big entertainers and stock car races. Present officers are as follows: President, Lester Schult; vice-president, Carl Wagner; treasurer, Richard Vags; secretary - manager, Dan Miller.

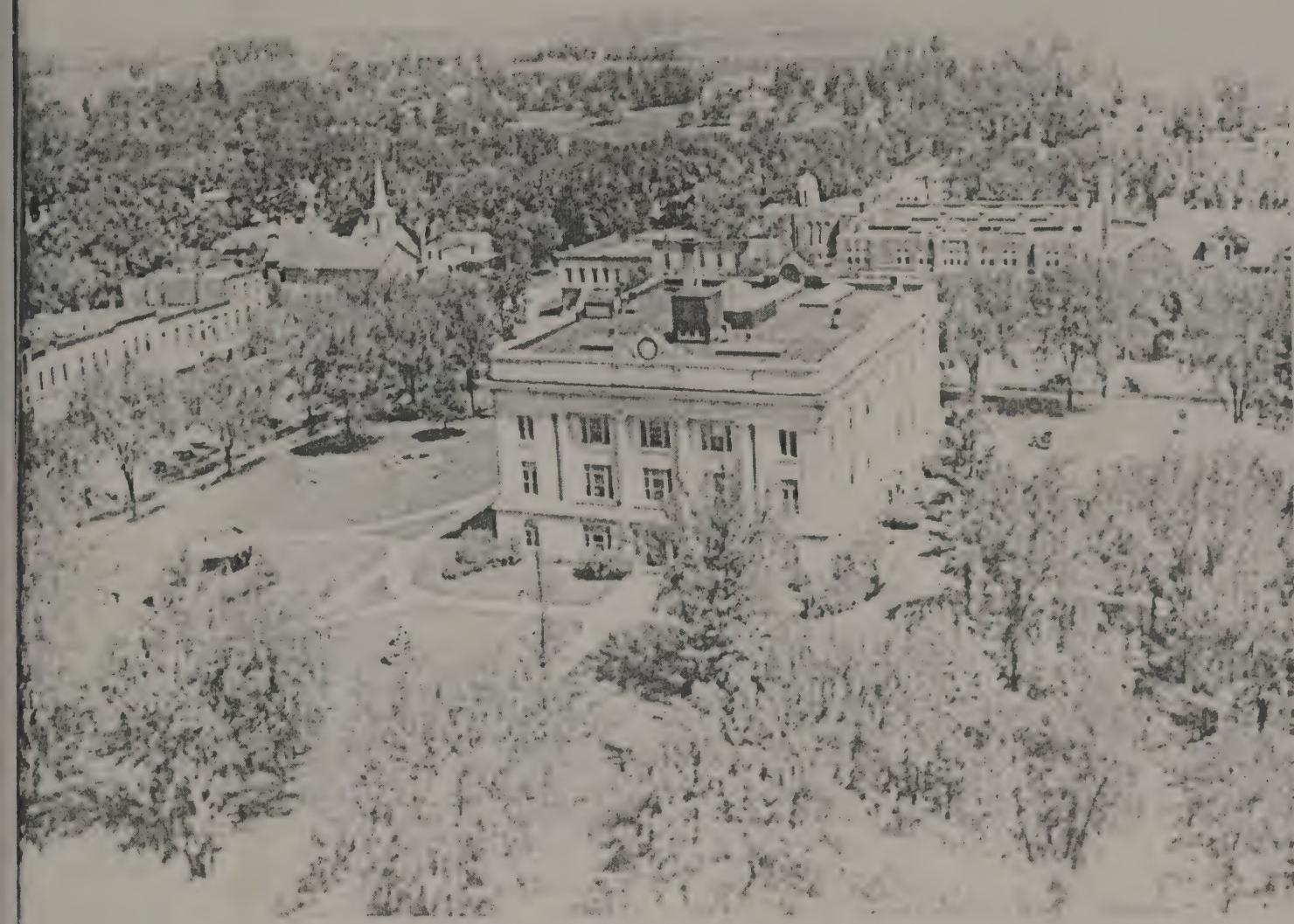


LOG CABINS ON FAIRGROUNDS. Built by George Gilberts. This cabin was destroyed and in more recent years a second cabin has been erected in approximately the same spot.

**Wolfs Trucking**

**Lilac Styles**





NEW COURT HOUSE shortly after it was completed. The building was dedicated in 1924.

#### CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The land for the original cemetery was given to the city by William Wells. The present main drive was the north boundary of that tract. Subsequent additions have been acquired.

The oldest date on a headstone is June 22, 1849. In 1894, a group of women met in the old Zeigler Hall and organized the West Union Ladies' Cemetery Association which still operates the cemetery for the city. They organized with Mrs. Harry Talmadge as president; Mrs. D. W. Clements, vice-president; Mrs. Anna Lacy, secretary, and Miss Ella Parrott, treasurer.

In 1885, a group of high school girls raised money to pipe water to the cemetery, and an iron fence and gates were installed in 1904. The shelter house was built in 1914. Tax support for the cemetery was first made available when Ray Belknap was mayor. The fountain and the receiving vault were gifts of Mrs. Charles Woodard.

Present members of the board are as follows: Harold Truver, Balz Kamm, jr., Dr. W. E. Bicknese, Mrs. Germit Teig and Miss Mary Montgomery. Mrs. Rachel aboe has served the board as financial secretary since 1949.



CIVIL WAR MONUMENT in West Union cemetery, erected in 1914 at a cost to the county of \$2,000.





**WEST UNION BOY SCOUTS (1920)** — Taken after winning award at meet in Fayette. Standing left to right, Leslie Shafer, McGirr, Carl Schroyer, George Blunt, Tom Wright, Orval Sullivan, Kenneth Henderson, Ruel Randall, Charles Schoonover, Earl Reiners, Lorenz Schatz, unidentified, Donald Brown, Bertram Olson; kneeling, E. R. Ballard,

Martin Henderson, Sam McMasters, Allen Ballard, Sidney Peterson, Tom Dorland, Chester Reeder, Lloyd Peterson, James Cook, Clair Cullins, George P. Schatz; reclining, Bob Estey, Donald Northrup, Reasland, unidentified, unidentified, Loyd Berg. In front of Chester, Earl Peterson, in front of Loyd, Burl Brown.

### BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scouts of America were first organized in West Union in 1913 with Frank Morrison as Scout Master. He was assisted by George P. Schatz and E. R. Ballard. Meetings at that time were held in the gymnasium over the Post Office building located in the Owens Block. The Original Scout Council consisted of J. H. Cline, G. G. Archer, A. W. Moore and Walter Beall.

Today Troop 54 is sponsored by the West Union

Chamber of Commerce and is a very active group with John Grimes as Scout Master. The present Boy Scout Committee includes Darwin Schrage as chairman; Blake Brown, Mrs. Arlo Mork, Dr. LeWayne Nusz, Mrs. Duane Lindberg, Mrs. Vern Darnall and Ted Jermeland. Activities over the past years are numerous. Presently Troop 54 enjoys good representation at Camp Ingawanis each summer, camp-outs, canoe trips and winter camping.

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### HEISERMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The original West Union Library was organized by the Tourist club on May 5, 1892. The West Union Art club and private citizens joined them in forming an official Library Association on March 31, 1895. The first officers were the following: Mrs. S. W. Robinson, president; Mrs. A. L. Colegrove, vice-president; Mrs. John Owens, secretary; Mrs. W. W. Wright, treasurer.

The earliest Library Board consisted of W. W. Peables, F. H. Bloodgood, Karl D. Fisk, J. F. Miller, L. L. Ainsworth, R. O. Woodard. The first librarian was E. W. Smith.

By 1898, the library had 1,000 books and used the State Traveling Library for additional material. It was located over stores in the north part of the block on Vine Street across from the Court House. The records show that the Library closed June of 1907, with a debt of \$24.28. Their last librarian was Mrs. Estella Barnes.

The Library was reorganized in 1929 and was located on the second floor of the City Hall, until 1954, when the present beautiful new brick building was built at the corner of Vine Street and Highway No. 18.

The lots for the new library were purchased by the City from the school district. The building was made possible by a gift of Oscar W. Heiserman estate for the purpose of building a public library as memorial to himself and his wife, Marie Heiserman. This gift amounted to \$46,867.39.

Mr. Heiserman, a native of West Union, was a jeweler, watchmaker and optician, and was continuously in business in this city for 55 years until his death on June 2, 1950. His wife, Marie, was a school teacher and a musician of considerable note, serving for many years as organist in the Methodist church. She died Nov. 12, 1947.

Ground was broken for the new building on March 12, 1954. The cornerstone was laid by the Masonic Grand

**West Union Appliance**

**Tri-State Breeder**

Orrin Kuhn



Lodge of Iowa on May 8, 1954, and the library was opened to readers on Aug. 31, 1954.

The following were the board members who built the new building: W. H. Antes, Miss Sena Lauridson, Mrs. A. J. Knarr, Mrs. L. R. Layton, A. S. Morse, Mrs. R. M. Westerfield and Dr. L. L. Carr.

Librarians since 1929 were Miss Helen Clapp, 1929-41; Mrs. C. C. Brink, 1934-1957; Mrs. Doran Meyer, 1957-1972, and the present librarian, Mrs. Ellen Quandt.

Present Library staff members besides Mrs. Quandt are Mrs. Emily S. Hanchett, assistant librarian; Mrs. Vida Lillian Nordhus, assistant librarian, and Katherine Quandt, student assistant.

The present Library board is as follows: Mrs. Lula Blunt, July 1, 1974; Mrs Harold Conner, vice president, July 1, 1976; Mrs. Norman McCauley, July 1, 1976; Mrs. Lois Meyer, July 1, 1976; W. H. Antes, president, July 1, 1978; M. V. Henderson, July 1, 1978; Miss Sena Lauridson, secretary, July 1, 1978.

In 1964, the library received a cash legacy under the will of W. H. Tisdale, a long-time West Union druggist, in the approximate sum of \$7,500, which was invested, and held for future expansion of the library.

A special feature, worthy of note, is the club room in the basement. This easily seats 60 people, and is used by numerous groups and organizations. A kitchenette is available for the serving of coffee and light refreshments.

In 1970, Mrs. Margot Musser, San Diego, Calif., donated the collection of figures of horses which had been gathered by her well-known father, Arch Musser. With the help of Russell George, the library procured a glass cabinet which houses the Musser collection of about 70 horses, and other small animals. This is now displayed in the children's department of the library.

Late in the year 1972, the Library Board procured a deed to the vacant lot lying just east of the library building from the North Fayette County Community School District of West Union.

The present library is still closely associated with the State Traveling Library through the libraries in Cedar Falls and Decorah. This enables the library to the use of several hundred new books each year, part of which become property of Heiserman Memorial Library.

The library now serves over 1,500 registered borrowers at least with an annual circulation of 22,000 books.

#### CUB SCOUTS

Cub Pack No. 54 of West Union was chartered through the Rotary club on June 24, 1946, with 28 charter members.

Edwin M. Knight was the original Cub Master and he was succeeded December of 1946 by Rev. William V. Goldsmith.

The Cub Scouts are boys aged eight through 12, it has grown in numbers through the years to some 75 members.

The Cubs today continue to enjoy weekly den

meetings and a monthly Pack meeting with their parents and present Cub Master, Jim Guyer.

The Pack committee consists of David A. Sweet, chairman; Paul Kaiser, Willys Fritz, Rev. Bill Jones, Ted Jermeland and Ray Forret, District Committeeman. Mrs. Marie Krambeer serves as Den Leader coach.

#### First Hospital

Dr. Frank B. Whitmore, son of Frank Y. Whitmore, West Union banker, realized his dream of building a sanitarium and hospital in West Union in 1898. Dr. Whitmore purchased a livery barn owned by Dave Dorland and a sale barn just north of it on the corner of Walnut Street and East Elm Street. Local labor was hired to lay the foundation of this hospital and outside labor came in to build the actual structure. This building was architecturally designed to be compatible with the other brick buildings near the court house square. The exterior of the building has never been changed as it stands on its original site. Dr. Whitmore called his hospital "The Maple Leaf."



DORLAND'S LIVERY AND FEED STABLE which stood on the site of the first West Union Community Hospital.

Although West Union could boast of having a hospital before the turn of the century, it was not a successful nor profitable venture. Hospitals were very unpopular places with the people of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Babies were born at home and home was where most people spent severe illnesses and expired. The little surgery done was likewise done on the kitchen table or right in the doctors' offices. Aged and infirm relatives were cared for by their families. The other doctors of the community would not cooperate with the hospital and Dr. Whitmore gave up the venture before 1910.

## West Union Auction Exchange

## Sidney Crowe, Jr.

### Conclusion

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the product of two numbers is  
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Dr. Whitmore was named secretary of the YMCA in Nanking, China, and sailed for there somewhere between 1904 and 1910. At this time the interior of the building was remodeled for professional office space on the second floor. The ground level was divided into two sections for retail businesses. The south side contained a grocery store run by Harvey Smith and the north side contained a store selling general merchandise and shoes.

#### West Union Community Hospital

In 1919 many citizens of the community felt a hospital was a necessity. The community signed a contract for the purchase of the Whitmore hospital building and a bond issue was held. The city of West Union obtained the deed to the building in 1920. The



HOSPITAL as it looked in 1914 when it was used as a business and residence property and owned by Harvey Smith.

hospital was reopened after the necessary remodeling had been done to convert the building back to a functioning hospital. For a time the hospital operated on a voluntary basis, later the City Council appointed three trustees to manage the affairs with funds raised through taxation. Mr. F. M. Rasmussen was hired as superintendent. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen were graduate nurses and made their home at the hospital. The other nurses on duty at the hospital were Miss Jessie Courser and Miss Mary Barger.

John Graham, now of Hawkeye, son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Graham, was the first baby born in the hospital.

The West Union Community Hospital operated with financial difficulty for many of its years. In 1939, a Women's Hospital Auxiliary was formed at the suggestion of Mrs. Kate O'Brian, acting superintendent, and Mrs. Anna Swendsen, Superintendent, to help supply

the hospital. (See history of Palmer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary).

#### Palmer Memorial Hospital

By 1944, the old hospital was found to be inadequate for the demands of West Union and the surrounding communities. A bond issue was passed in a special election in 1947, and with the help of public donations \$10,000 gift of Chesley Palmer, Hawkeye, and Hill Burton funds through the Federal government, a new hospital began to take shape on the north side of Jefferson Street. This hospital carries the name of Palmer Memorial hospital, after King Palmer, jr., who was killed in action in World War II serving as a paratrooper during the Battle of the Bulge. He was the son of King Palmer, West Union insurance man and nephew of Chesley Palmer.

Ed Traeger, mayor, contacted Rev. George Goeken, pastor at St. Peter's Lutheran church, Eldorado, and member of the Good Samaritan Society as to the possibility of the Society taking over the operation of the new hospital. This was agreed to by both parties and Palmer Memorial has been run by the Good Samaritan Society since May 1, 1949, one of two Samaritan run hospitals in Iowa.

Construction on the new hospital began in June of 1949, the same year the town celebrated its centennial. Total construction costs on the first phase of the hospital exceeded \$202,000. The corner stone was laid on September 4, 1949, and it was dedicated February 11, 1951. The first baby born in the new hospital, John William Reinking, arrived on the opening day for patients, February 13.

In 1960, the Iowa State Board of Health presented the community with the challenge of either updating its facilities or losing its license for elective surgery. A successful campaign for capital funds and a \$75,000 bond issue made possible the new addition at a cost of \$276,859.

Part of this addition was dedicated on September 27, 1964, however, the lower level was not completed at this time due to insufficient funds. Eight years later the new



EXTERIOR view of Palmer Memorial Hospital, 1970's.

# Town House

# Les Chensvold



addition was finally completed and a dedication and open house was held on June 25, 1972. The new facilities in the 1964 upper addition included a new delivery and labor room, nursery, and additional patient rooms. The completed lower level contains the hospital lobby, X-ray, and laboratory, office and storage area. Eventually an emergency room will be located on the lower level.

An elected city hospital board oversees the operation of the hospital. These members are President, Bill Jahnke; treasurer, Milton Eide, and Francis Loftus. Palmer Memorial Hospital continues to be leased from the city by the Good Samaritan Society of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at a cost of \$1,000 per month plus one dollar per patient a day and \$2,500 contributed by the city. This money is set aside and used improve the hospital building and make necessary repairs. The operation of the hospital itself is entirely patient supported and has an annual operating budget of \$500,000, employing between 80 to 90 persons.

Five general practitioners and one surgeon serve the hospital. They are David A. Freed, M.D.; Chief of Staff; William J. Wolf, M.D.; Larry Boeke, M.D.; John Weibel, D.O.; Scott Linge, M.D., Fayette, and Clyde F. Deal, Surgeon. Dr. W. E. Walsh, Hawkeye, is an honorary member of the medical staff. Palmer has the part time services of two radiologists, Dr. Frank F. Nelson and Dr. Giovani Bruno. Also the additional services of Dr. R. E. Weland, pathologist, and a physical therapist, Dennis Montet.

Palmer Memorial Hospital achieved accreditation Nov. 17, 1967, and continues this accreditation to the present time.

#### GOOD SAMARITAN NURSING CENTERS

##### Custodial Center, 100 North Walnut

Soon after West Union's new hospital was opened in 1949, the Good Samaritan Society purchased the old hospital from the city for \$10,000 and opened it as a nursing home. Some \$3,329.00 was contributed by local citizens to help put the building into condition for its residents. This building provides custodial care for 25 persons. It has an operating budget of \$48,000 and employs ten people. This facility has been condemned by the state and will close its doors by the spring of 1974. The residents who resided at the Center at the time the closing was announced will be transferred to the new nursing care facility at 300 Hall Street. The future of the old hospital is undecided at the present time.

##### Nursing Care Center, 300 Hall Street

With the proceeds from the sale of a farm which had been given the Society by Adam Musselman, 9.6 acres of land was purchased north of the hospital from Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Blockhus. A new nursing care facility was built in 1964. The community raised \$30,000 or ten percent of the total assets and donated this money to the Good Samaritan Society. This facility was built by the Society and is considered to have \$378,000, in total assets. There is room for 51 residents and 40 persons are employed to run this facility. The annual operating budget of the Nursing Care facility is \$220,000.

##### Four-plex Apartments, Hall Street

The Good Samaritan Society saw a need for senior citizen housing in the community and initiated planning



GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER, 300 Hall Street

## General Exterminating of West Union

Gerald Guenther

## Lilac Motel



for a ground level apartment house near the nursing center. An Open House and dedication of these apartments on Hall Street was held Sunday, September 2, 1973. The structure has four single bedroom apartments, each fully carpeted and equipped with range and refrigerator.

The units rent for \$150 per month. This four-plex was built with money accrued from the nursing facility and donations from the community. The first four units are debt free. Much interest is being shown in these units and a second set of four are in the planning stages, however, financing will be necessary for further building.

#### Additional Good Samaritan Services

Other services available to West Union residents through the Society are the Meals on Wheels Program and Home Health Service. Eligible residents may have a hot meal delivered to their home for a cost of \$1.25 per meal. The Home Health Service sends aids into private homes to aid senior citizens with their health care or assist them in caring for their home. The cost for this service is \$2.00 per hour. The prime objective of both of these programs is to enable senior citizens to remain in their own homes while receiving some nursing care benefits at a much lower cost than institutional care.

#### Good Samaritan Administrators

Administrators who have served the hospital since 1951 are as follows: Mrs. Leslie Chelf, Mrs. Harold Grimm, Mrs. Charles Kendrick, Mrs. Emmett Heiberg, Mr. William Hansen, Mrs. Elsa Rose, Mr. Wallace Brudvig, Mr. Woodrow Jorgenson, Mr. Wayne Muth, Mr. Craig DeLaBarre, Mr. Douglas Peterson.

The administrators are assisted by an advisory committee of local residents. This committee presently consists of the following persons: President, John Havener; Secretary, Mrs. Charles (Loretta) Shipton; Milton Eide, Walter Dullard, Mrs. Gene (Mert) Wood, Dr. Edwin Walsh, Mrs. Celia Knarr, representative of residents from the home, and Rev. Byron Ayers, representative of the ministerial association.

Rev. Kenneth J. Rumppe serves all Good Samaritan facilities in West Union as chaplain. Rev. Rumppe coordinates church related activities at the two centers and the hospital and works with local pastors on behalf of residents at the center, patients in the hospital and their families. He is available for all patients at all times and guides the Spiritual Program of the Society.

#### HISTORY OF THE PALMER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

A group of interested women of West Union met in the assembly room of the Court House on March, 25, 1939, for the purpose of forming a West Union Community Hospital Auxiliary. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mabel Mercer and Mrs. O. W. Heiserman. Forty-eight women signed the constitution at the meeting and paid their dues of 25c per year. The first officers of the auxiliary were President, Mrs. O. W. Heiserman; Vice-

President, Mrs. Selma Hitch; Second Vice-President Mrs. William Noonan; Secretary, Mrs. Mary K. Estey; Treasurer, Mrs. Florence Whitney.

The purpose of the auxiliary is to aid the local hospital and to promote and advance the welfare of the hospital through ways approved by the governing board and hospital administrator. This purpose is accomplished by interpreting the hospital services to the community through public relation program, service to the patients, and fund raising in a manner satisfactory to the hospital governing board and the community.

The organization is divided into units to facilitate the work of the organization with each unit electing officers, the president of each unit serving on the governing board of the general auxiliary. Each unit, as it organized chose a special area of the hospital on which to concentrate its efforts.

A group of ladies in the southern part of West Union organized on April 4, 1939 and decided to furnish the nursery and delivery room. They called themselves the "Cradle Unit" and is still in existence today.

November of 1939 saw the second group organized and called themselves the Eastside Room unit as they provided furnishings for a room on the east side of the hospital. This room was changed in 1940, to one on the south side and the unit changed their name to Sunnyside.

The Service unit was organized in 1939 and for thirty-four years has done mending and sewing for the hospital. The Kitchen unit was organized at the same time to purchase supplies for the kitchen, such as dish towels, dishes and other equipment. The Gleaners organized to sew rags for rugs and turned their profits over to the auxiliary treasury. In 1942 a Northwest unit was formed in the northern part of town and existed until 1963. These units were joined in 1962 by the Eastside unit and the unit in Fayette. For a short time an organized unit existed in Hawkeye. The newest unit is the Elgin unit which was organized in 1973. Present membership of the auxiliary numbers around 200 women. The name was changed to Palmer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary when the new hospital was built in 1951.

In the past thirty four years that the auxiliary has been functioning, numerous fund raising projects have been held to raise money for the hospital. These projects ranged from the usual bake sales, bazaars, house to house canvassing, benefit dances and dinners to more unusual. A professional wrestling meet was held in the school auditorium in 1961. Also in 1961 an operetta production of "Babes in Toyland" was presented jointly by the hospital auxiliary and the Women's Federated club for the benefit of the hospital building fund. Ticket sales netted \$1,047. Several cookbooks of favorite recipes have been compiled by members and sold, concession stands were run for two years at the auto races and National Corn Picking Contest 1964. In 1972, a tour of homes was held in Fayette and West Union.

A total of \$6,500 was given to the hospital in 1964 for the new addition, \$2,000 of this money was used to equip the labor room.

Current officers and board of the auxiliary are

Ken's Conoco Service

Nienhaus Yamaha



President, Mrs. Tom (Mary) Weight; vice-president, Mrs. Gerald (Colleen) Guenther; secretary, Mrs. Charles (Jean) Worrell; treasurer, Mrs. Glen (Elisa) Wilson; unit presidents: Cradle, Mrs. Larry (Sharon) Boeke; Sunnyside, Mrs. Richard (Mary) Schroyer; Gleaners, Mrs. Everett (Laura) Reisner; Service, Mrs.

Suckow; Eastside, Mrs. Gay (Fran Bowden); Fayette, Mrs. Scott (Elaine) Linge; Elgin, newly organized, Mrs. Jack Adrian.

By Fran Bowden  
Laura Klicher

## LIONS CLUB

The West Union Lions club was organized March 19, 1942 with 23 charter members. Dr. E. A. Reiners was the first president of the club.

Some of the highlights from past activities have been the minstrel shows, yearly pancake and sausage suppers, creation of Lions Park for West Union and the sponsorship and \$1,000 contribution to the West Union senior Citizens Housing apartment house.

In further service to the community the Lions have

provided funds for the Coronary Care Equipment for Palmer Memorial Hospital, Organ fund for Community Chorus, Summer stock productions for West Union, Three Crosses Ranch, Iowa Lions' Sight Conservation Foundation and glasses for needy students and adults.

The club presently has 51 members with three charter members: Doran Meyer, Kermit Teig and Harold Gartner. The president now serving is Jim Rogers and Kerry Barnum as vice-president.



MINSTREL SHOW BY LIONS CLUB AND HIGH SCHOOL SWING BAND, 1945 — Front row, Winifred Sherren, Nancy Price, Margaret Morris, Mary Frank, Beatrice Ruhde, Roland Swale, Jim Cline, Ted Doscher, Mary Brehme, Jeanette Nienhaus, Mary Jean Stuch, and Mary Alice Payne; middle row, Gerhard Johnson, Art Morris, M. F. Frevert, Richard Clark, R. H. Hutchinson, Leon Johnson, Carl Bostrom, DeMarion Fennell, director; Mrs. Dale P. DeSart, music director; Mrs.

James James Temple, George H. Anderson, Milton Marting, A. W. Brockmeyer, Elbert McIntyre, Earl Johnson, Ray Maden and Don Stoessel; back row, Kermit Teig, Leonard Fencl, Glen Yates, Harry Raney, W. A. Bealmer, Harold Gaehler, Howard Wendland, Ted Frese, H. H. Upham, Herb Klammer, L. G. Kelly, Louis Nienhaus, Charles Halverson, George Woodard, Don Hansen, A. R. Rupp, Gerald Thorsen, Max Masmar, E. A. Traeger, George Dessel and Harry Wenger.

Harry Henry Electric

Rademaker Realty

Lee Pape, Abe Rademaker



## DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Hannah Lee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized Dec. 26, 1919, at the home of Mrs. Mable Thorne Ainsworth with 28 charter members. Mrs. Ainsworth served as organizing regent.

In the early years of the Chapter projects were proposed and consummated. In a short time a budget system was adopted and a regular and systematic program of charitable work commenced.

The first patriotic project was the placing of framed "American Creed" in each room of the public school and in the Legion Hall. On Flag Day, 1927, they unveiled a bronze tablet in the new Court House at West Union, bearing this legend: "Fayette County Court House, erected 1856-7; destroyed by fire, Sept. 15, 1872; accepted Oct. 20, 1874; destroyed by fire, Feb. 5, 1922; dedicated Oct. 8, 1924. Presented by Hannah Lee Chapter, D.A.R., West Union, Iowa."

Through the years the members have supported the various projects of organization, keeping the chapter on the honor rolls. While the chapter numbers 36 members two-thirds of them live out of town, many in far places, but keep dues paid. Average attendance is 12 to 14.

One member, Mrs. Helen Kearney Walsh, Hawkeye, has served as local Regent, State Regent, Vice-President General and on the NSDAR Speaker's Staff, and in 1971 ran on the slate headed by Mrs. Wilson King Barnes for National office. Another member, Florence Kent Messerli, left over \$25,000 each to Kate Duncan Smith and Tammassee schools.

Hannah Lee is very closely associated with the Larrabee Mansion at Clermont, Mrs. Anna Larrabee being one of the charter members of the chapter.

At present we have two 50-year members, who were also charter members of the chapter, Ruby Stone Antes and Xanta Talcott Finch.

## TOURISM COUNCIL

Tourism Council of Fayette County was organized in 1964 by Mrs. H. L. Heying. Prime effort was to promote the Volga Lake Recreational Complex which had been initiated by Dr. Garbee and Gene Hervey of Fayette and to assess the tourism possibilities in the county.

March 7, 1970 it renewed its status as a non-profit corporation. Registered officers then were Mrs. Jo Heying, president; Mrs. Lynn Wolf, secretary; Mark Mihm, treasurer, and Virgil Borchert, vice-president. Board members were Mrs. Hugo Busche, Waucoma; Dean DeSart, Elgin; Mrs. Helen Richards, Alpha; Mrs. Don Hansen, West Union; Henry Follett, Clermont; Carl Recker, Arlington; Jack Kappmeyer, Maynard; Robert Lyon, Oelwein; G. W. Alderson, Wadena; D. A. Martin, West Union; Onalee Baker, Westgate, and Lucy McNamara.

Tourism council was active in farm tours, hosting Chicago families on farms. With the help of financing from Milk Producers Association they brought city students to study farm living.

## ROTARY

The West Union Rotary Club was organized November 2, 1937 with 21 charter members. The first elected president for the club was H. E. Duke and secretary, Rev. George Fisher.

At present there are 45 members with President Robert J. Ralston; Vice-President Philip Stucky, and Secretary, Douglas V. Peterson.

## WEST UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The West Union Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1922, and was then known as the "Citizens' Club." This "Citizens' Club" was a successor what was known as the Commercial Club which functioned until about 1915. George P. Schatz was the first president of the "Citizens' Club."

The Chamber of Commerce is operated under a Board of Directors. One director is a member on each of the eight committees which carry out the functions and activities of the Chamber. Some of these activities are the Town-Farm Barbecue, Farm Visitation, Corn Test Plot and Field Day, Spook Day, Flea Market and many other civic events. The Chamber is dedicated, not only to the promotion of retail sales but the general betterment of our city. This includes promoting new industry, appearance, safety, etc. The Chamber has 140 members including local business and many individuals.

Present officers are Kenneth Schatz, president; Steve Story, vice president; Gary Penningroth, treasurer, and Allan Enyart, manager.

## TEENS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

In the fall of 1964, the "Teens for Democratic Action" was organized in West Union. The purpose of the group is to foster student interest and participation in the political process in conjunction with the Democratic party. Students are also given the opportunity to become involved in various non-partisan community projects, which the T.D.A. has undertaken. In the past, such projects have included the renovation of the Community Meeting room on the second floor of the City Hall in West Union, and sponsoring dances.

In 1965, Miss Ann Hutchens succeeded Steve Story as adult sponsor of the organization. The group has grown to a top membership of 45 persons. In 1966, the Teens for Democratic Action received a Charter with the Iowa Young Democrats and attended their first state Young Democrats convention. The TDA has been in attendance at every state convention since then.

Throughout the years, many individual members of the club have served as state officers in the Iowa Young Democrats. Miss Hutchens has served as the Second Congressional District Committee woman. Bill Roach has served as Teen Dem Coordinator and as state president of the Iowa Young Democrats. Joe Hauer has served as Second Congressional District Committeeman and State Teen Dem Coordinator. In 1970, Miss Kandy Kissinger of the TDA was selected "Miss Iowa Young Democrat." In 1971, the TDA received statewide

**Bealmer's Dry Goods**

**Doran Meyer**



recognition for selling ads in the State Young Democrats convention programs.

Honorary members of TDA are: U.S. Senator Harold E. Hughes, State Senator H. L. Heying, and Past Fayette County Democratic Chairman Steve Story.

Throughout the years, the Teens for Democratic Action have been involved in many local campaigns and the club always worked closely with the Fayette County Democratic Central committee.

#### WEST UNION JAYCEES

The West Union Junior Chamber of Commerce was first organized on Feb. 24, 1962 with 35 members. The first elected president of the new chapter was Steve Story, First Vice-president, Gary Bostrom. The name of the organization was later changed to "The West Union Jaycees." Many projects have been undertaken and accomplished over the years, the chapter led a successful campaign to build the present swimming pool in 1965. They were instrumental in the passing of a bond issue to build the new High School. In their most recent campaign they raised over \$20,000. to purchase an ambulance for West Union and excess funds going for a coronary care unit at Palmer Memorial Hospital. The chapter runs many other projects on an annual basis, Christmas lighting contest, Safety Lane check, Bike safety check, picking up Christmas trees, Senior Citizen Appreciation, welcome signs, etc.

The West Union Jaycees have received many awards, in 1966 they were awarded the Geisenbier Award which is the highest award given to any Jaycee chapter in the state, the Gold Chip in 1969 which is a measure of 5 years continued growth and accomplishments. They were chosen to hold the State IOYM (Iowa Outstanding Young Men) Banquet in 1971 with Jesse Owens as featured speaker.

Past presidents have been Steve Story, Gary Bostrom, Robert J. Ralston, Franklin Reyner, jr., Ronald Moore, Robert Holm, Gary Penningroth, James Boelman, Allan Enyart, Richard Ewers, J. Edward Marker, who was succeeded by his First Vice-President, Chuck Worrell, during his term and the present president, Greg Pavelka.



#### Old Things and Old Times

By Mrs. George Blunt

3:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 23, 1883. A cry in the night, "Fire, fire. It's the United States House again, and this time it's a goner."

This remarkable building began its life in West Union as a warehouse, exactly where the First National Bank now stands. In 1855, Samuel Hale bought it — the

same Samuel Hale who built the first courthouse, and many of the early brick houses here. He enlarged and remodeled it, making it into an important place in the development of this part of the country.

In the late 1850's, and again after the Civil War, it seemed as though the whole country might be moving westward. Back East, entire family clans — grandparents, their sons and daughters and grandchildren and in-laws — packed emigrant wagons to travel to new territory. Or perhaps a whole neighborhood of farmers would hold vendues and turn their faces westward with their families and stock. During those times, West Union was a stopping place for these travelers, and from West Union they fanned out west, northwest and southwest. At times, the streets might be filled with wagons, oxen, horses and their owners. No one knew just when one of the caravans might come driving in, day or night. My friend, Mrs. Ida Holmes, whose mother lived and worked at the United States House then, says that great pans of stew were kept simmering on the ranges, and enormous cakes, baked in dishpans, must be ready at a moment's notice.

Besides the travelers, many local people made their home there, and the front of the first and second floors was taken up by stores, millinery shops and dressmaking shops. It was, too, the stopping place for the stagecoaches which entered and left town in all four directions at least once each day. Each coach discharged its passengers in front of the hotel, then passed through the alley south of the building to the large stone barn at the rear. The barn still stands west of the bank, and is used for storage by the West Union oil Company.

After Mr. Hale sold out and returned to Eden Township, the hotel had several different owners, including C. B. Roberts and James Riley.

Even though it was soon full of activity, the building had been on fire many times, and when the cry of "Fire!" went up that autumn night, watchers could see that it was doomed. The building on the north went, too, but the three-story brick structure now housing Nancy's Dress Shop stood, through the efforts of the men who kept the roof and the woodwork surrounding the white-hot iron door from burning.

One resident, Jim Mooney, carried his wife from the burning building, then returned, and came out safely with a hundred dollars which had been under his pillow. Others escaped in their nightshirts, or the few clothes they had barely had time to put on.

Mr. Riley, the owner, had an adequate amount of insurance, and shortly after, built the brick block which was torn down when the bank was built, within the memory of many of us.

West Union will never again know the day of the wagon train, the stagecoach, or the three-story wooden hotel, complete with cupola.

# Lantz Barber Shop

# Melody Lounge

Ken Larick — Marge Boyle



## WEST UNION SCHOOLS

### Early History

The citizens of West Union have always been concerned with quality education for their young men and women. Early historical reports show the pioneers of the area to be of German, Norwegian, English, Irish, Scotch and Dutch descent. They were people of intelligence and many of them were liberally educated. Establishing schools for their youth was one of their prime concerns.

The first school house in West Union was a log structure, eighteen feet by twenty-four feet in size, built in the summer of 1850, on the north end of Lot 1, Block 15, on the east side of town. This is the present site of the former home of Amy Richards. Mr. James Beale taught in the log school house in the winter of 1851-52, six months, for \$100. The log school house was used for religious purposes as well as for school for some years, until churches were built and the school district had outgrown its dimensions. Then the churches were used for school houses; but, until 1858, the author can find no record of schools or school districts.

West Union Independent School District was organized probably in the spring of 1860. It is said that at the first meeting, when a Board of Directors was chosen, the district voted to borrow money to build a school house, and for three years they were voting taxes and rescinding them, but at last in May, 1863, a contract was made to build a frame school house on Lots 4, 5, 6 and 7 Block 4, on the north side of West Elm street, (the corner of W. Elm and N. Oak) for \$2,900. The house was to be 30x50 feet, two stories, with a vestibule 10x30 in front, and as the district was "short", the contractors were allowed a year in which to complete it. They commenced work in May, 1863, and the building was ready for occupancy in April, 1864. The first teachers in the new frame building were E. B. Wakeman, Principal; Mrs. R. R. Wakeman, Miss Jennie E. Hines Lacy and Addie M. Close. The term commenced April 25 and ended July 18, 1864. In 1871, four more rooms were added to the structure and the departments were enlarged.

In 1879, the question of building a new and modern school house came before the board of education, who favored a change of site. The site of the frame school building near the cemetery seemed unsatisfactory to many. After much discussion, the site now occupied at the northeast corner of the court house square was selected. By the beginning of the school year, 1881, the east half of the building was ready for use, and the old school house on the cemetery hill was abandoned. This new building was architecturally beautiful, and afforded ample room. It was constructed of red brick with striking colorings about the windows, doors and archways.

One readily identified characteristic of this building was the bell tower built on the east side of the building. It seems that when the first court house burned in 1872, a domed Gothic cupola was ordered for the tower which was under construction on the second court house. When this arrived in West Union the space it was to occupy was

much larger than the cupola. Another order was sent for a dome with the proper dimensions and the original was stored in the court house. Then the brick school was built in 1881 plans included a brick bell tower to fit the "white elephant" Gothic dome. The school secured it from the county where it adorned the school until it was razed in 1971.

Five years after this brick building was completed the first graduated in 1886. This class was composed of seven girls and one boy. Some splendid educators were employed in the West Union schools. One of these was Professor J. B. Knoepfle, who succeeded the state superintendence soon after leaving West Union.

There were no extra-curricular activities maintained in the early days of the high school. However, one of the teachers, Miss Bell, supervised Friday afternoons



WEST UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

programs. These consisted of group singing, and dramatic productions. Records show some of the other early teachers of this school were Ina Adams, Gertrude Kaye, Amy Leigh Paine, Lizzie Gillies, Margurite Staves, and Nelle Green.

In 1902, an addition, or practically the other half of the building was erected, thus completing the symmetrical appearance of the building and doubling the capacity. The building was entirely modern, and the school became an accredited high school. The teaching force consisted of a superintendent, principal of the high school, and thirteen other teachers in the grades and high schools. The salary of the superintendent was \$133.30 per month; the other teachers received an average of \$45.00 per month.

An old graduation program dating 1905, boasts of a literary society, debating club, a thirty-five piece band established and directed by Superintendent Sanders, and

W. H. Antes





NELL GREEN WOODARD



A. MAE DICKSON

a twelve piece orchestra led by Mr. C. V. Oliver. Following are some quotes from the graduation program celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the school:

"It is expected that this band will be entirely uniformed in the fall . . . we anticipate some stirring music."

"Thanks to the City Council and the School Board the school is now supplied with a system of sewerage, of which every citizen may well feel proud. The toilet rooms in the basement are convenient, sightly, and sanitary."

"Athletics have not been neglected. We had a football team last fall that did some very acceptable playing. . . Two girls' basketball teams - "The Reds" and "The Blues," gave us some good games during the season. The high school baseball team did some fine work at several of the games, and though the score book shows some games lost this spring, it is well to remember that it is not glory but physical development that we are striving after in athletics in school."

As time went on, the West Union School found itself under a handicap so far as facilities were concerned. With the marked increase in enrollment from the years of 1909 to 1930, the school plant was found wholly inadequate. It was necessary to provide modern heating and ventilating systems, improve lighting facilities, and add special rooms and equipment for the teaching of subjects as normal training, manual arts, home economics, commercial subjects and physical education. Also, in order to provide facilities for the production of plays, declamatory contests, debates, operettas, and other musical programs an auditorium was found necessary. To meet these needs in 1930, under the leadership of the Board of Education and support of the citizens of the school district, another school building was completed. This building is the present junior high

building and served as the high school gym and class rooms until 1970.

Members of the school board at the time of the 1930 building project were as follows: President, W. H. Antes, attorney (Judge Antes); J. H. Cline, county auditor; A. D. Finch, county engineer; Chris Messerli, retired farmer and city councilman; King R. Palmer, life insurance agent; Ruel P. Camp, secretary of the board, banker, and Russell A. Holy, city superintendent. Judge W. H. Antes served on the school board from 1921-1945, for a total of twenty-four years, longer than any other board member in the history of the school district.

The new auditorium became the center for the activities of the rural country schools as well as the city school events. The eighth grade classes would gather on a Saturday to take their graduation examinations and the county graduation exercises were held in the auditorium.

School faculty of the 1934-35 school year is listed as follows: E. A. Ralston, Superintendent of Schools, Miss Bertha Hanson, Principal of the High school, and teachers, D. M. Caldwell, Eva Fennell, Robert McLeese, Helen Silver, Owen Olson, Wesley Moore, Grace Roark, Mildred Stegall, Genevieve Owens, Sena Lauridsen, Isabel Kingsbury, Mae Dickson, Leta Grove, Eva Shea, Grace Lyle and Fern Watham. Miss Irene Martin was primary assistant. Sena Lauridsen served the West Union schools until her retirement in 1967. Miss Mae Dickson is currently in her thirty-ninth year of service to the West Union school system and in her forty-third year in the teaching profession. She previously taught in a country school in Benton County and three years in Ventura before being hired in the community school here for the sum of \$80.00 per month and the promise of a \$5.00 raise per year. At North Mae has served in the capacity of fifth grade teacher, sixth grade, seventh and eighth grade departmental social studies, and started the junior

## Ben Franklin





WEST UNION School buildings as of 1930.

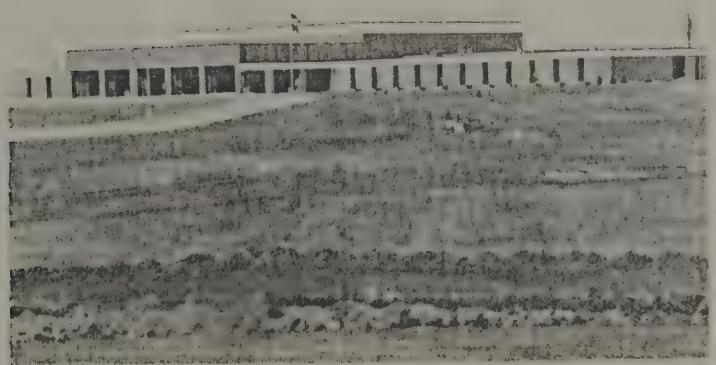
high library. Presently she is serving as high school librarian.

A 1935 history of the school prepared by the Latin classes of Miss Grace Roark lists some of the outstanding achievement of members of high school. Following are some quotes from this essay:

"This year we have especially enjoyed the boys' quartet consisting of Elbert Estey, first tenor; Arthur Halverson, second tenor; Earl Antes, baritone; Arthur Darling, bass. They were given a rating of superior at the sub-district music contest."

"Invitational debate tournaments are held at various colleges. Our affirmative team this year was Clyde Murphy and Horace Hoover and the negative team: Margery Molumby and Marian Halverson. These teams won four debates at the district meet at Cedar Falls. Margery Molumby and Marian Halverson represented our school at the state tournament at Iowa City."

"For the first time, in 1935, West Union High School entered the County One Act Play Contest. The play, "The Other Apostle" won first place with the following cast: Arthur Darling, Elbert Estey, Harry Schroder, Horace Hoover, Clyde Murphy, Earl Antes and Martin Blockhus."



NEW NORTH HIGH SCHOOL, 400 N. Pine

**Elm's Motel**

The essay ends with a wish for the schools of 1935 and the future. It reads as follows: "May the schools of West Union continue to function as efficiently in the future as they have in the past, and may the school never lose sight of its aims and objectives; training for citizenship, health, character, leisure time, fine arts, benefits from social contacts and preparation for vocation. May the boys and girls of today develop into men and women who have caught the broader vision." This wish is timely still today in 1973, and looking over the citizenry of West Union's eighty seven graduating classes we can certainly boast that many "caught the broader vision."

#### Reorganization to Present

On July 1, 1957, the West Union Independent School District was merged with the town schools of Alpha, Donnan, Eldorado, Hawkeye, and parts of surrounding township schools. E. D. Archambault served as the superintendent at the time of the merger. The name chosen for the new district was the Non-Fayette County Community School District.

Attendance centers for grades K-6 were maintained in the towns of Hawkeye, West Union, and Alpha from 1958-1964. A bond issue was passed in January of 1958, for the construction of a new elementary school building in West Union. This building is located on 16.23 acres northeast of the corner of North Pine Street and Bradford Street or Highway 18. This building was built at a cost of \$509,852.00. Classes began for students in grades 1-6 in this building in the fall of 1960, under the direction of L. Andrew, principal.

North High School became an accredited member of the North Central Association in April, 1960.

The junior high students, grades 7-8 along with kindergarten and overflow high school classes were moved to occupy the building erected in 1881 and 1902. It was necessary to utilize space in this building for the biology department and the special education classes. The agriculture and industrial arts departments occupied the building on South Vine Street owned by Don Hansen. Class room needs increased until in 1969 the district purchased four self-contained cottage units to house the kindergarten at the junior high site and two placed at the east side of the elementary school to house two sixth grade sections.

It became increasingly urgent that a new high school building be constructed and the junior high students moved from a rapidly deteriorating structure. On January 15, 1965, the board purchased 48 acres on North Pine, adjoining the elementary property, for the sum of \$24,000. In August of 1966 a football field was built on the new property and the games no longer had to be played at the county fair grounds. On November 9, 1967, a bond issue for a high school building at the new site and an elementary school at Hawkeye was defeated receiving 57.43 percent yes votes to its needed 60 percent. A revised bond issue was passed on May 23, 1968 by a 77 percent yes vote. This bond approval was for the sum of \$1,390,000. Work began on the Hawkeye building April 1965, and it was occupied May 8, 1970, even though it was

**Farm Bureau  
Service Co.**



ot completed. Construction on the high school began August 4, 1969.

May of 1970 saw the old junior high building vacated and the departments moved into the high school building. Determined administrators and teachers along with the cooperation of construction foreman, Robert Heins, began classes in an incompletely built building on August of 1970. Students used cement blocks and boards for desks. The students and teachers adjusted to workmen putting up ceiling blocks, blackboards, doors, windows, varnishing woodwork and the installation of the heating system. The gymnasium was the last area completed and the basketball season of 1970 saw it appreciated by players and fans alike.

The old vacated school building north of the court house was torn down just prior to the beginning of the school term in August of 1971. The basement of the structure was filled in and graded for a parking lot.

Although the previous mentioned white cupola of the bell tower was destroyed the old school bell that once brought students to school, rang at recess time, and dismissed students for the day, now hangs in a new bell and alongside a new flag pole in front of North High school. The bell carries this inscription, "Buckeye Foundry 1875" on one side and "Vanduzen and Fift, Cincinnati" on the other.

The relocation of the bell from its old Moslem and Gothic architecture tower started with the passage of the bond issue for the new high school. The project was completed with the financial help and cooperation of many persons. The Quarterback Club, with engineering planning by Bob Samson, physics instructor, was able to ring the bell down from its tower position without damage. For two years it was mounted on a platform waiting for funds and labor to give it a proper spot to ring North High victories.

The Senior Class of 1970-71 and the Student Councils of 1970-71 and 1971-72 voted funds necessary to build a stand for the bell, buy flagpole and flags and a stand for the flagpole. Today, the same bell that rang for many years and so many students now have the opportunity to ring for many, many more years for athletic victories at North High.

This author wishes to admonish the graduating class of 1974 and those of the future to develop an awareness in the heritage provided them by preceding generations who established one of the finest school systems in the area. One must know the past to take pride in the present and determine the future.

#### Superintendents

Early records do not indicate the terms of services of superintendents prior to 1915. Names of those who served up to that time are Fred Merrit, Miss May Francis, principal; J. B. Kneplfier, Grant E. Finch, E. E. Waters, J. G. Sanders and Leslie J. Ayer. From 1916 to the date of reorganization of the school those who served were:

A. W. Moore, 1915-1919  
Fred McNeal, 1919-1923

Harvey N. Kluckholm, 1923-1928  
Russell A. Holy, 1928-1932  
E. A. Ralston, 1932-1935  
Leonard Steger, 1935-1936  
R. W. Esslinger, 1936  
Marvin T. Nodland, 1937-1941  
C. B. Christian, 1941-1950  
S. A. Ballentyne, 1951-1956

E. D. Archambault was the transition superintendent at the time of the reorganization thus being the last superintendent of schools for the West Union Independent District and the first for the new North Fayette County District, resigning in 1958.

Subsequent superintendents for the District were Elmer C. Gast, 1958-1964; R. Wesley Carlson, 1964-1970; Donald W. Mueller, 1970-present.

Many of the superintendents and faculty who served the West Union school system made valuable contributions to the field of education. Two former administrators served Iowa as the State Superintendent of Schools; J. B. Kneplfier and Miss May Francis.

#### Present Administration 1973

Donald Mueller, Superintendent; Steve Story, High School Principal; Blake Brown, Junior High Principal; E. L. Andrew, Elementary Principal; Garry Kuhens, Elementary Principal, Hawkeye.

#### Board of Directors

Farnklin Reyner, Jr., President; Lester Steffens, Dale Halverson, Joe Hoopes, Bruce Crandall, Laura Westendorf, Merlin Dunt, S. Irene Martin, Secretary; C. W. Grimes, Treasurer.

#### CURRENT OPERATION OF THE NORTH FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Operating a school district today is big business. In 1973 the North Fayette County Community School District employs 137 persons. Of these, five (5) hold administrative positions, seventy-five (75) are certified



SCHOOL BOARD FOR 1973-74 — Seated left to right are Supt. Don Mueller, Laura Westendorf, President Franklin Reyner, Joe Hoopes, Sec. S. Irene Martin; back row, left to right, Dale Halverson, Lester Steffens, Bruce Crandall and Merlin Dunt.

# Dave Cagwin Insurance



teaching personnel and fifty-nine (59) are non-certified. The school's approved budget for the 1973-74 fiscal year totals \$1,471,261.00. Of this amount \$726,597.00 comes from property tax. The balance is obtained from federal, state, and miscellaneous monies. The economy of West Union benefits from an average monthly payroll of one hundred thousand dollars, the largest in West Union. The total salaries, paid in 1972-73 amounted to one million, thirty seven thousand, one hundred seven dollars and fifteen cents (\$1,037,107.15). For this amount of money the taxpayers and patrons of the district are getting a bargain as the average cost per pupil, \$846 is among the lowest in the state. The North Fayette District is providing quality education at a reasonable cost.

The total enrollment for the 1973-74 school year is approximately 1485 students. A fleet of twenty busses travels a total of 1,207 miles daily to transport well over fifty percent of the pupils to the four attendance centers. Mr. Art Erickson is transportation supervisor and has served the district in this capacity for twenty two years.

Mrs. Reta Hinkel and a staff of fourteen supervise the preparation of 1200 meals a day. All of the cooking is done in the kitchen of the high school building and transported by a food van to the other buildings in West Union and Hawkeye. The hot lunch program operated on a budget of one hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000) for the school year.

Mrs. Fran Bowden

#### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

North High provides a variety of co-curricular activities and carries on the tradition of the West Union School of the past in providing strong programs in speech, dramatics, athletics and music. The students consistently place well in contests. The spring of 1973 saw the music departments and dramatics combined to present "Fiddler on the Roof," under the direction of Ed

Timm, Tom Canfield, and Mrs. Diane Johnston. musical has become an annual event of the school.

Each year North High has a Veteran's Day observance. This is a project of the senior contemporary problems class under the direction of the senior contemporary problems class under the direction of their instructor. This program was begun in 1961 under the guidance of Steve Story and has continued since 1961 under the direction of Gay Bowden. Notable speakers who have participated in this observance are as follows: 1961 - Honorable James Bromwell (R-Cedar Rapids) United States Congressman, 1963-Honorable John Culver, aide to Senator Kennedy, later U.S. Congressman from the Second District (D-Marion), 1964 Robert Fulton, (D-Waterloo) Lieutenant-Governor of State of Iowa; 1965-Donald E. Johnson, National Commander American Legion, West Branch; 1966-Honorable Jack Miller (R-Sioux City) United States Senator; 1968 Maurice Baringer (R-Oelwein) Treasurer of Iowa, Pas Speaker of Iowa House; 1971-Richard Clark (D-Marion) elected U.S. Senate in 1972; 1973-Honorable Robert D. Ray (R-Des Moines) Governor of State of Iowa.

#### ATHLETICS

West Union has always taken pride in its athletic squads. The students strive to represent their school and community well both on and off of the playing fields.

#### BASEBALL

According to reports and memory only one team participated in state tournament play prior to school reorganization. This the 1929 spring baseball team coached by Lester Becker, consisting of the following players: Merlin Ploog, Lee Wagner, C. W. Grimes, Robert Carroll, Evan Fuller, Lee Holmes, Dale Schaefer, Owen Snively, Buster Willenborg, Elwood Windhurst,



1929 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM — Top row, left to right, Owen Snively, Supt. at Hazelton, Ia.; Buster Willenborg, deceased; Lester Becker, coach, was living at Dubuque; Elwood Windhurst living in Palm Springs, Calif.; John Roach, deceased; bottom row, Merlin

Ploog, deceased; Leo Wagner, living in California; Carroll Grimes, West Union; Bob Carroll, living in Pennsylvania; Evan Fuller, deceased; Lee Holmes, living in Decorah; Dale Schaefer, deceased.



and John Roach. These boys had to overcome many difficulties to accomplish this feat.

The Bombers of 1929 refused to accept the decision of the school to drop their favorite sport, baseball, and substitute a track program. Since there was only one coach and he was busy with track, they were primarily on their own. Coach Becker arranged a schedule for them and helped during his spare time. From the beginning this team showed its determination by defeating opponent after opponent. Even though the entire team did not have uniforms and there was little equipment available to them, the Bombers took the County Championship, May 1, 1929, when they defeated Hawkeye to remain undefeated in County play. The

weather was particularly bad that spring as they moved into District play May 10-11, defeating Calmar, Earlville, and Marquette in the District.

The State Tournament was held at Dows, Iowa, and West Union defeated the Dows team in first round action. They went on to capture the State Championship and are the only West Union - North High baseball team to have done so. The batteries for the 1929 team were Edward (Buster) Willenborg and Dale Schaefer.

The only other baseball team to represent the school in State Tournament play was the spring squad of 1969, coached by Gay Bowden. They defeated Decorah 4-2 in District play and Farley St. Joe 3-0 in Sub-state action before earning their berth in the State Tournament.



SPRING BASEBALL SQUAD OF 1969

# Carpenter & Kraft



played at Mason City. However this team was defeated in the first round by a strong Council Bluffs, Thomas Jefferson team, 4-1. James Graham, shortstop for the Hawks, was named to All-State selection second team infield. Other members of the squad were as follows: Bryce Beermann, Merle Whitcher, Danny Biermann, Bob Estey, Ken Bement, Steve Smith, Larry Toenges, Jerry Bayse, Don Flaskeurud, Dick Bauer, Gerald Bauer, Manager Jim Shippy. The team ended the season record of 14-10.

The baseball teams have earned the Upper Iowa Conference championship six times as North High in 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1969 (tie).

### FOOTBALL

Football has always been a popular sport in the community. Five high school teams won Upper Iowa Conference Championships. The years, records, coaches, and team members are as follows:

#### 1939 - Record 5-0 - Coach Bob McLeese

LaVern Alcorn, Kenny Anderson, John Schadle, Bill Wright, Earl Halverson, Gordon Peterson, Bob Burrett, Walter Pratt, Keith Granger, Sam Turner, Rollin Daniels, Dan Schadle, Virgil Torson, Lloyd Patterson, (Bulldog) Schroyer, Charles Stockman, Bob Cline, David Duke, Keith Grimes, LeVere Wenthe, Clarence Biermann and Eugene Michel, manager.

+1939 was the first year for the Upper Iowa Conference and consisted of six schools.

#### 1943 - Record 5-0 - Ted Freese, coach

LaVern Stumme, QB, Leo Olesen, Marvin Peterson, Earl Daniels, Cuddy Bernau, Harlan Biermann, Virgil Pratt, Dick VanSickle, Jack VanSickle, Eldon Crandall, Dan Mitchell, Joe Clark, Tom McNulty, Ralph Blockhus, Dean Crandall, William Schmelzer, Don Rueckert, William Dummermuth, Richard Whitney, Don House, Bud Brockmeyer, Calvin Duke, Junior Schmelzer, Bob Cooney, Parnell Schmitt, Vern Halverson, Don Cooney, Bob Wenthe, Manager, George Woodard, jr.

#### 1951 - Record 5-0 - Coach Bob Hall

Tex Heyer, Karl Moe, Louis Guenther, Franklin Downs, Dale Buenzow, Lee Pape, Ken Vagts, Ly Guenther, Gary Foote, Don Durscher, Derald Halversen, John Halstead, B. J. Ukena, Jim Nutting, Gary Beermann, Bud Vagts, Ken Strong, Jerry McCauley, Bruce Crandall, Harold Durscher, Tom Cline, Don Alcorn, Gary Grimes, Jerry Hemingston.

#### 1964 - Record 7-0 - Coach Bob Johnson (North High)

John Basye, Al Crowe, Tim Underdahl, Wendell Whitcher, Steve Estey, Bailey Frye, Reggie Gross, Jim Guyer, Howard Hughes, Ron Kent, Bob Meyer, Roger Stahr, Dennis Russler, Paul Searles, Denny Smith, Wayne Stockman, Dick Woodson, Joel Moschel, Ken Askelson, Steve Hoover, Dave Martin, Dave Milbrandt, John Schlegel, Mike Schroyer, Bill Wise, John Grimes, Tom Swale, Bruce Whitcher.

#### 1966 - Record 6-1 - Howard Simpson, Coach

Greg Kilcher, Reid Martin, Dean Wurzer, Doug Hyman, Brian Foote, Tom Swale, Jim Knight, Mike Schram, Bruce Whitcher, Bryce Beermann, Dean Whitcher, Dave Stockman, LeRoy Soppe, Ron Miller, John Grimes, Jan Petsche, Monte Westerfield, David Tiffany, Clark Whitford, Tim Carlson, Ware Grove.

### Basketball

Basketball has provided its moments of excitement for the community over the past years.

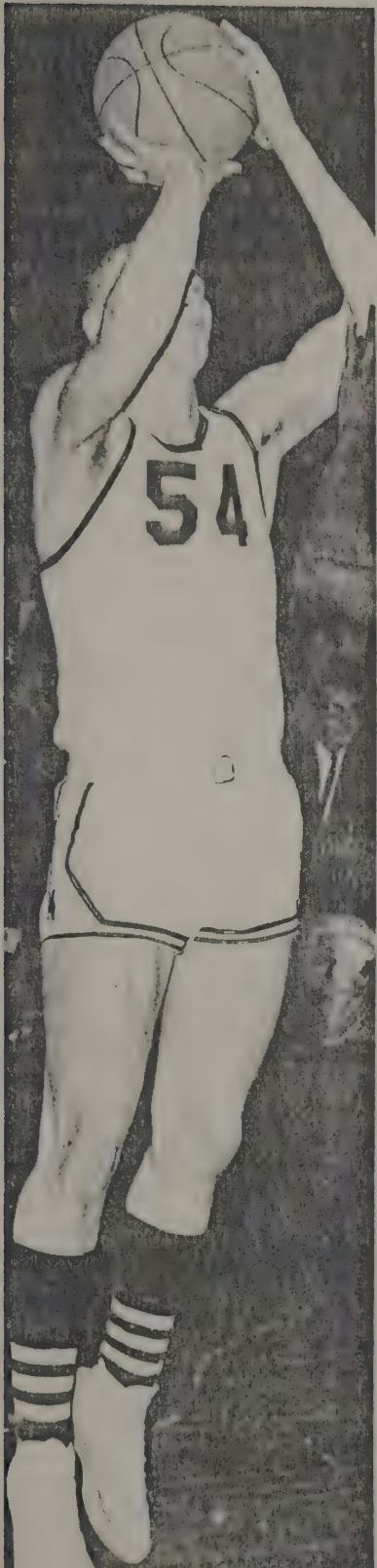
The 1936 Bombers basketball crew, under the direction of Coach Bob McLeese climbed all the way to the Sub-State Tournament. Members of that squad were Harry Grimes, jr., Gene Swale, Clair Wiltgen, Waldo Blockhus, Dick Waldron and Harold Kamm.

The Bombers of 1952 were among the top 32 teams in the state when the local boys stopped Oelwein 57-56 in the first round of Sub-State action in Waterloo. These boys were guided by Coach Bob Hall and included the following players: B. J. Ukena, Lyle Guenther, Harold



BASKETBALL TEAM 1963





GARY BEMISS, all-stater in basketball

Durscher, Dale Beunzow, Gary Foote, Tex Heyer, Karl Moe, Gary Beermann, Tom Cline, Jim Nutting, Lee Pape, Donald Durscher, and Managers, Don Marshal and Edgar Traeger.

WEST UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL won the Upper Iowa Conference four times in basketball. The years, records, coaches and team members are as follows:

1943-44 - Record 10-1 (tie with Elkader) - Coach Ted Freese

Cuddy Bernau, Earl Daniels, Ralph Blockhus, Don Clark, Harlan Biermann, Bob Cooney, Leo Olesen, Earl Johnson, Ron Crandall, Dean Crandall, Dale King, Bob Stendel, Manager George Woodard, jr.

1948-49 - Record 10-1 - Coach Bob Hall

Bob Johnston, Don Ulring, Ted Doscher, Jim Cline, Gene Stormoen, Jack Loftus, Dick Erickson, Sherril Christian, Jack Schatz, Dave Tope, Wayne Grimes.

1950-51 - Record 10-2 (tie for first) - Coach Bob Hall

Don Waldron, Karl Moe, Tex Heyer, Gary Foote, Gary Beermann, Tom Cline, Pat Roach, Bruce Crandall, Lyle Guenther, Dale Buenzow, Bob Shepard, Edgar Traeger.

1951-52 Record 11-1 (tie for first) - Coach Bob Hall

Karl Moe, Tom Cline, Tex Heyer, Lee Pape, Lyle Guenther, Gary Foote, Dale Buenzow, Don Durscher, B. J. Ukena, Jim Nutting, Gary Beermann, Harold Durscher.

Although there hasn't been a North High basketball team win the conference championship, one team did represent the school in the State Tournament. According to newspaper reports the 1963 basketball team coached by Steve Story, provided the town with quite a bit of excitement. The season was truly a "Cinderella affair" in that the 1961-62 Hawks finished their season with a 2-16 won-loss record, but turned around in 1963 to rewrite North High basketball history. The over-all record was 17-6, with a conference record of 11-3, a second place finish behind Elkader's 12-2 record. The Cagers went on to win the District tournament over Decorah 82-59, St. Lucas 64-60, and Cresco 81-75. In Sub-State play they ousted New Hampton 80-70 and upset Waterloo East 84-83 to earn their berth in the State Basketball Tournament in Des Moines. The team was stopped by Cedar Rapids Regis in the first round by a score of 80-59.

Gary Bemiss and Dean Niewohner, co-captains and the outstanding players on the squad led the team scoring with 669 and 344 total points respectively for the season. Gary Bemiss set an all time tournament record with 53 points in the overtime win over East Waterloo, two of these points being the tying and winning free-throws with ten seconds remaining to play in the game. Bemiss is the only basketball player in the school's history to be selected to an All State team. The IDPA honored him by placing him on the fourth team and the Des Moines Register named him to their third team.

# Fayette County Abstract Co.

M. V. Henderson



Other letterwinners of this team are as follows: Don Larson, Paul Craft, Jim Antes, Don Broughton, Wendell Witcher, Greg Martin, Ken Koester, Dave Palas, Charles Porter.

#### Wrestling

Wrestling was started in 1950-51, and has been a sport where the school has consistently been strong. Seven Conference Championships are held by the school. They were won in the following years: 1958-59, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, coached by Blake Brown; 1969-70, 1970-71, coached by Joe Brubaker; 1972-73, coached by Jim Guyer.

The third season of wrestling for the school in 1953 saw two West Union Bombers participate in the State Meet. These boys were Leonard Larson, jr., 120 lbs. and Lewis Bishop, 130 lbs.

Three North High wrestlers won State Championship Titles in their weight classifications. The first was Don Parker in 1963 in the 165 pound division, then Jim, in 1965 at 154 pounds, and Dennis Milbrandt in 1970 at 130 pounds.

Other North High wrestlers to place in State competition are Alan Grimes, fourth, 127 lbs., 1959; Don Parker, second, 120 lbs., 1962; Ron Tope, second, 127 lbs., 1963; Dennis Milbrandt, fourth, 120 lbs., 1968; Lance Franck, fifth, 98 lbs., 1973.

#### TRACK

Boys' track was begun at the West Union school in 1929, and had featured several fine athletes and teams.

Records are posted in the North High gym. The 11 team, coached by Jim Lorenzen, won the District Championship. The teams of 1965 and 1971 won Conference Championships.

Cross Country track was begun in the fall of 1966 under the direction of Bob Scott. The boys' cross country mile team won the State Title, Class B, in the fall of 1971. The boys to accomplish this fete were Erik Lindberg, Bill Larick, Kevin Olesen, Terry Nixon and Larry Crain.

#### GIRLS' ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The girls' athletic programs are relatively new at North High. The West Union High school had girl basketball until the mid 30's however, dropped the sport when some questioned its role in the school program. The other schools of the merger offered girls' basketball until the reorganization. Presently the school offers five competitive sports for girls under the direction of the Iowa High School Girls' Athletic Union.

The first girls' athletic team to be organized at North High was the girls' softball squad. In 1960, five girls, Diane Teig, Diane Milbrandt, Olivia Hanson, Barbara Tope and Peggy Renwick, requested girls' softball made a part of the summer recreation program. Girls from a local softball league team tried out for the varsity team coached by Steve Story on a volunteer basis. In 1963, during the summer season the team won the district tournament and won the right to represent the area in State Tournament play at Hubbard, finishing fourth in the State. A return trip to Hubbard in the fall of 1963 saw



FALL 1963 GIRLS' SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS





STATE RUNNERS-UP, SUMMER 1972.

them go all the way and become State Champions, defeating South Hamilton of Jewel 7-5, behind the pitching of Olivia Hanson.

Other letterwinners on these State Tournament teams are as follows: Jane Jensen, Diane Trewin, Joan Pleggenkuhle, Linda Biermann, Sue Biermann, Carolyn Porter, Janice Schrage, Sue Hyman, Martha Hyman and Linda Schmitz.

Over the years softball has grown on the state level to where it has 320 schools participating. The coaching duties of the girls' softball team were taken over by Gay Bowden in the fall of 1966 when Mr. Story assumed his new duties as principal.

In the summer of 1970, a relatively young team earned a berth in the State Tournament in Fort Dodge by defeating a strong Central of Elkader team in the District finals. This was an eight team tournament held for the first time in Fort Dodge and executed with much of the same pomp as is accorded the girls' state basketball tournament. The team was defeated by defending State Champions of Rembrandt in the first round.

The summer of 1972 saw a victorious return for most of these girls behind the pitching of Kathy Ewing. The girls defeated Wapsie Valley in the Regional tournament to earn their return trip to Fort Dodge. The first game of state action saw them defeating Woden-Crystal Lake, 1-0, then a come from behind victory over Perry and a heart breaking defeat to NESCO Zearing 3-2 to place second in the State. This 1972 Lady Hawk team had previously won the Jack North Iowa Open Softball

Tournament at Adel and the Benton Invitational to end the season with a 32-4 record. The thirty two wins stand as a school record for the most wins in any one sport in one season at North High.

Starters on these girls' tournament teams include the following: Jill Darnell, Denise Van DeBerg, JoAnn Fischer, Karen Moore, Linda Schultz, Karla Daniels, Tammy Weidemann, Lynn Stoffel, Cindy Bernau, Julie McIntyre, Kathy Ewing, Marilyn Cannon, Ronda Rowland, Kim Wedemeier, Kathy Bauer, Sherry Jones.

The Upper Iowa Conference recognized softball as a competitive sport in 1968. The Hawks have won the title twice, 1972 and the fall of 1973.

Girls' track was begun in the spring of 1967 and proved to be an immediately successful venture, with four girls qualifying for State competition, under the coaching of Howard Simpson. To date the girls' track teams have won four conference crowns, two county meets, and have won the district four times.

The outstanding girls' track qualifier, thus far, has been Becky Rademaker. Becky qualified for the state meet four times and in 1968 became the first state pointgetter from North High in girls' track. Also, in 1968, Becky was selected to represent Iowa at several mid-west state meets. The crowning achievement was representing Iowa at the National meet in Houston, Texas. She won the 2 lap dash and tied for the 1 lap dash to help the team to a fifth place finish nationally out of 147 teams. In 1970, Becky set an 11.1 second record in the 100-yard dash in the district meet, a record that still stands.



In 1973, Janet Story and Tammy Weidemann placed in the top five in individual events at the State meet.

In just a few short years, North High Girls' Cross Country has progressed to a position of prominence in the State. The girls coached by Bob Scott, have won four straight District championships (1970-73). Girls who have won these titles include Rae Landas, Gayle Crandall, Alyce Kleppe, Kris Koehler, Mici Frey, Patty Landas, Lynn Ralston, Janet Story, Cheryl Lockhart, Jackie Meyer, Marcia Vagts, Kathy Jones, Nancy Jones, Therese Holm and Peggy Landas. In 1973, the girls' squad finished second in the State meet, won the state track and field federation meet and finished second in the National Women's Championship at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Therese Holm has been North High's outstanding girls' cross-country runner. Currently she holds the school's distance running record presently 9:21 minutes.

Golf and girls' basketball round out the list of competitive sports for girls. Basketball was introduced in 1970 and is just getting off the ground. The overall picture for girls' athletics at North is a promising one.



## Old Things and Old Times

By Mrs. George Blunt

Wasn't early August the time for Reunion? Not just a reunion, with small letters, although they are nice, but Old Soldiers' Reunion, with capital letters.

Not many years after the Civil War, Reunion meant from 250 to 300 former soldiers camped on the courtyard square—a real camp, including tents, campfires and all the rest, for several days. Besides the usual activities, there was a shambattle, witnessed by all who cared to watch. Sometimes this battle was held on the hillside behind the Melvin Baumler home (just as you start out on the old Elkader road), sometimes behind the Elms Motel (the first place on the road to Fayette on the east side of the road), and perhaps other places. Carl and Eva Palmer have been told that it was their grandfather who ran along the lines warning, "Remove your ramrods! Remove your ramrods, or a comrade may be killed!" Of course, the "enemy" just beyond the hill was really a company of their best friends and neighbors.

In the first years I can remember Reunion, the group was called Fayette County Veteran Association, although many were members of the G.A.R., or Grand Army of the Republic, and their wives of the W.R.C., or Women's Relief Corps, an organization that did untold good in the dark days of the War Between the States.

In those later years, it was usually a two-day affair, an encampment in name only, with part of the time given to business meetings and election of officers, part to programs, and the rest to reminiscing and refreshments.

The programs were attended by the public, and were held outdoors if the weather permitted, or in the courtroom or other convenient place, if not. Aside from an invocation by the chaplain, the numbers were usually for the veterans, rather than by them; children and grandchildren furnished much of the entertainment.

One reading which was very popular was the one where Blossom, the young soldier's little sister appealed to President Lincoln for the life of her brother, who was to be shot for falling asleep on guard duty. He had stood watch for a sick friend the night before, and I believe the President granted a pardon, in this true story. Another reading heard often was the poem The Blue and the Gray. A male quartet almost always sang The Vacant Chair, and Sleep, Comrads, Sleep, or Tenting Tonight. Everyone joined in singing the rousing patriotic songs, such as Tramp, Tramp, Tramp; Battle Cry of Freedom, Marching Through Georgia, the Nostalgic Just Before the Battle, Mother and the triumphant Battle Hymn of the Republic.

When there were only three veterans left—Frank Downs, Hiram Foster and John Gager, they decided to discontinue the gatherings, thus sparing any of them the pain of a "last man's club," so with the 55th annual reunion, the meetings of the Boys in Blue passed from the scene.

Sleep, comrades, 'neath the heaven's blue,  
Loyal and brave, to country true,  
Sleep soldiers, sweetly sleep.

## NIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Thomas More Council No. 4287, Knights of Columbus, West Union, was organized in the summer of 1956. A charter was obtained by District Deputy Dr. Wessels of Ossian, dated Sept. 16, 1956. Fifty charter members formed the council, about half of whom were given the first three major degrees of the order at that time, others having received the degree at earlier dates. Father Edward L. Cooney was pastor at Holy Name Catholic church at the time.

Men holding high elective or appointive offices from Council No. 4287 include: Grand Knight, Charles Broghammer 1956-58; Grand Knight, L. T. Philips 1958-60; Grand Knight, Henry Bodensteiner, 1960-61; Grand Knight, Dr. M. J. Molomby, 1961-63; Grand Knight, Howard Boyle, 1963-67; Grand Knight, Clarence Fischer 1967-68; Grand Knight, Edward Meskel, 1968-70; Grand Knight, Lee C. Stammeyer, 1970-72; Grand Knight, Melvin Baumler, 1972-74; District Deputy, Howard Boyle, 1967-73. Howard Boyle also served as delegate to Supreme International convention at Anaheim, Calif., in 1968.

High honors achieved by Council No. 4287 over the years include winning the Star Council award (recognition by the Supreme Council, New Haven, Conn.) for activities and new membership in 1964, 1966 and 1968.

# West Union Chamber of Commerce



# SOCIAL & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS



**HAL MEMBERS IN 1941** — Pictured here are members of the Historical and Literary club. They include, left to right, front row, W. J. Rogers, Rev. W. H. Mitchell, Marvin T. Nodland, W. H. Antes, Frank Camp and

John Cline; back row, Dave Roberts, Robert Hoover, C. W. Antes, Dave Lynch, Walter Beall, Dr. H. H. Buhmann, Lynn Grimes and Rev. G. W. Ukena.

## H.A.L. HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CLUB

Organized in 1880, the Historical and Literary Club (H.A.L.) is said to be the oldest men's club west of the Mississippi River. There were seven original charter members, C. H. Talmadge, postmaster and editor of the Gazette; P. F. Sturgis, merchant, farmer, banker; Oscar W. Rogers, lawyer and real estate, and first white child born in West Union; Rev. W. O. Ruston, Presbyterian minister; W. B. Lakin, county recorder, State Senator; T. L. Green, wagon maker, farmer, and importer of horses; Harry P. Hancock, lawyer, and last surviving charter member of the club, dying in 1945.

Soon after organization the membership of the club was fixed at fifteen men. Women are excluded from club membership and are only invited to join the group for their annual banquet.

Each HAL member chooses a topic and presents it for twenty minutes. After this each member is encouraged to participate in discussion and the member in charge of the program is allowed five minutes to summarize. Club rules prohibit the discussion of a living person or a current topic. The secretary keeps a record of the topics presented and leaders. President of the club is the one who has been a member longest without having held the office of president.

Current members of H.A.L., listed in alphabetical order are C. W. Antes, Jon Antes, W. H. Antes, Byron Ayres, Tom Bennett, Wayne Bicknese, Larry Boeke, John O. Falb, David Freed, Richard Hanson, Bill Moellering, Don Mueller, Daniel Peterson and George Woodard, Jr.

It takes considerable reading and research for both presentation of topics and participating in the sessions. The club gives a cross-section of men an opportunity to

come together and gain insights into diverse areas of discussion.

## REBEKAH LODGE

West Union Rebekah Lodge No. 97, female division of the I.O.O.F., was organized on April 8, 1879, by D. W. Clements with 16 members present. The Rebekah Lodge is a world-wide organization. They help support homes for orphans and the elderly. Also they help in many ways in their own community.

Present day officers are as follows:

Noble Grand, Patricia Pratt; right supporter, Mabel Weston; left supporter, Zelma Grimes; vice-grand, Helen Tatro; right supporter, Susie Whitcher; left supporter, Grace Brause; recording secretary, Shirley Olesen; treasurer, Burdeen Smith; musician, Phyllis Brause; conductor, Lucille Gordon; warden, Reta Hokel; chaplain, Blanche King; Past Noble Grand, Rachel Lee; inside guardian, Dale Gordon; outside guardian, George Olesen; card committee, Clara Tefft.

## UNION STUDY CLUB

This club was organized in June, 1918, with six charter members: Mrs. Anna Reeder, Mrs. Ray Darnell, Mrs. Will Stirk, Mrs. Bart Glover, Mrs. Frank Hoyt and Mrs. Ross Whitcher. The name originally chosen for the group was the Unity Red Cross society.

Today the group is known as the Union Study club and has as its motto the golden rule and as their colors red, white and blue. Membership is limited to 24.

Present officers of the group are: President, Mrs. James Rogers; vice-president, Mrs. Harry Grimes; secretary, Mrs. Howard Whitcher, and treasurer, Mrs. Oscar Reeder.

# Charles Weidemann



## MASONIC LODGE

West Union Lodge No. 69 A. F. and A. M. (Ancient Free and Accepted Masons) was organized under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge on March 28, 1855. The original charter members and officers were: Wm. McCintock, Treas.; L. C. Noble, Sec.; J. T. Goodlove, J. D.; C. A. Cottrell, W. M.; J. S. Brewer, M. B.; Earl L. Fueller, S. D.; J. B. Hollingshead, S. W.; W. R. Hollingshead, O. Somers; James F. Dorland, John Dorland, J. W. George Murphy, J. B. Hough, C. A. Newcomb, H. K. Flint, W. A. Chase, E. C. Byam, Henry Jones, H. W. Earl, T. Anderson, J. D. Silter, Tyler.

The Grand Lodge issued the official charter on June 5, 1856. Henry Jones was the local representative at the Grand Lodge when the charter was issued. The minutes of August 13, 1856 show that Mr. Jones went by stage to the Mississippi River, thence down the River to the port nearest the road to Washington, Iowa; thence by stage to



MASONIC TEMPLE, built in 1965

Washington. He returned by the same route." The bill for his expenses showed that lodging and supper at Washington cost him \$1.00. The Grand Lodge dues at the time were 50 cents per member.

There is a record which indicates that the Odd Fellows at one time occupied the same quarters. On September 3, 1862 the Lodge voted to remove the lock from the outside door and to buy a new one with two keys, and to give one key to the Odd Fellows. In 1863 a lease was negotiated on the basis of \$3.00 per month or \$27.00 per year. This was raised to \$50.00 per year in 1865.

There are records showing that until January 1, 1897, the meetings were held in the buildings directly across

from the court-house square on the west side of Vine Street. At least three buildings are mentioned, these being the G. A. R. Hall, which is probably the present Colburn three-story building at the north end of the block; the G. H. Thomas Building, which is probably the present three-story building near the middle of the block, and the Sturgis Block, which was burned November 12, 1880.

An entry in a new minute book dated Friday, November 12, 1880 is as follows:

"By the fire that destroyed the Sturgis Block this morning with the office of the Secretary, C. H. Talmadge, the record book and ledger of this Lodge were burned."

As of January 1897 the Lodge moved to the building on South Vine Street, known as the Lawyer Brothers Building, which was the Lodge Hall from January 1, 1897, until November 1, 1964.

On April 17, 1868, a committee was appointed to purchase "necessary spittoons for the Lodge room." An inventory of January 13, 1897, showed that the Lodge at the time owned 24 cuspids and 48 maple office chairs of which the latter are still in use in the Lodge hall. A valuation of \$132 or approximately \$3.00 per chair was entered.

The Lodge moved to the Lawyer Building on January 1, 1897 and 435 yards of new carpet were purchased at a cost of less than \$1.00 per yard. It was left at the old Lodge Hall after being used there for 68 years.

Brother D. W. Clements, who was a lawyer by profession, was Grand Master of Masons in Iowa in the years 1909 to 1910. He previously served as Senior Grand Warden.

The new Masonic Temple was erected on a lot next to the city hall, which was purchased by the Lodge in 1919. The total cost of the new Temple was \$46,200, plus much work done by volunteer labor.

The first meeting on the Masonic Lodge in the new Temple was on Wednesday, November 11, 1964. Receiving the first degree work in the new building was Charles M. Broughton. His father, M. W. Broughton, and uncle, Dale Broughton, conferred that third degree November 21, 1964.

The building was formally dedicated May 15, 1965 and was attended by 13 of the 14 Grand Lodge Officers. A copper cornerstone box contains 33 documents and records for posterity.

Brother Ross Whitcher established a fund Jan. 10, 1968, to be used to purchase Masonic Bibles for all newly elected Master Masons.

The Lodge presently has 20 living past masters and 23 living 50-year members. J. S. Crowe, Sr. has the longest membership, having been made a Master Mason April 4, 1911. Chas. Rulifson, the oldest member of the Lodge at 88 years, is a very active member.

Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. This is in contrast to the early day custom of selecting the Wednesday of the month closest to a full

# West Union Foods, Inc.



moon. It was important to have enough light for horses to travel home after each meeting.

Present officers are: Harold Conner, Worshipful Master; T. D. Wright, Senior Warden; Robert Wilbur, Junior Warden; C. W. Antes, Treasurer, and Lew Bishop, Secretary.

#### BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMENS' CLUB

The West Union Business and Professional Women's Club was organized in 1950 with 19 charter members. The first officers elected for the club were Mrs. Erma Niehaus, president; Miss Zoe Smith, vice president; Mrs. Lester Springer, treasurer, and Miss LaVonne Reichert and Mrs. M. J. Molumby, secretaries.

Membership in the club is now restricted to women who are active in business or the professions, or retired women who became members while actively engaged.

Present officers are Mrs. Beth Clipperton, president; Mrs. Marion Broghammer, vice-president; Mrs. Bernice Hauer, treasurer, Mrs. Virgie Fels, recording secretary, and Mrs. Verla Amdhal, corresponding secretary.

The Business and Professional Women's club of West Union sponsors the Girl Scouts, contributes to the scholarship fund of North High school each year, and at the Christmas season donates money for use at the Fayette County Hospital Home for patients to use in buying gifts for those who do not have immediate families.

The local club was also responsible for the organization of the B.P.W. club at Postville.

#### THE NORTH COUNTRY CLUB

North Country club was organized in 1910 as a social club among farm women who lived north of West Union, hence the name. It began with 12 charter members and by 1913 the membership was increased to 20 regular members.

In 1913 the club members voted to adopt a constitution and by-laws and to have printed programs.

The programs given by club members covered art, books, authors, famous people, music and interesting geographical places. The club has carried out various worthy projects, including, donations to the Community hospital, Red Cross, filled sacks with goodies for boys leaving for service and sent clothing to refugee European families, donations at Christmas time to wounded soldiers in government hospitals, May baskets for patients at the Good Samaritan home and county farm patinets. The most extensive project was the raising of the "Danny Fund" to provide funds for assistance in the education of Danny at the Council Bluffs school for the deaf.

A gift of \$10 was given to the school for evergreens and \$25 was given toward the new ambulance.

On July 21, 1960, a tea was held at the Rodney Drewes home to commemorate the 50th anniversary. All former members living were invited guests and we enjoyed renewing old friendship and reminiscing about past programs.

#### WOMEN'S PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION

The first women's group of Bethel Presbyterian church was organized in 1875 at the home of Mrs. William McMasters for the purpose of aiding in missionary support.

It was also Mrs. McMasters who entertained three women in 1877 for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterial, and in October of that year the group formally became the Dubuque Presbyterial. Mrs. Brainard of West Union served as the first Dubuque Presbyterial president.

In 1878, the local group re-organized and became the Women's Foreign Missionary society and elected Mrs. I. M. Weed as president. The group continued to grow and function and sent contributions to the Presbyterial treasurer annually as well as packing and mailing "Mission Boxes."

In the early 1920's, the Auxiliary undertook fund raising projects to raise funds for a \$5,000 pledge which they had made toward rebuilding the church after it had burned in 1922.

In 1944, the Missionary Society, Circles and the Ladies' Auxiliary were combined under the jurisdiction of one organization called the Women's Presbyterian Association, affiliated through Presbyterial and synodical areas to the national level as United Presbyterian Women. They have continued to work under this form of organization since that time.

At the present time there are 60 active members and approximately 105 associate members. There are two afternoon circles and one morning circle, who meet primarily for Bible study and service projects.

Present administrative officers are President, Mrs. LeRoy Alcorn; vice-president, Mrs. Milt Marting; recording secretary, Mrs. Eugene Westcott; treasurer, Mrs. Norman Kilburn; program and publicity, Mrs. Roger Miller.

#### THE WOMEN'S PROGRESSIVE CLUB

The Women's Progressive club was organized in 1912. The charter members were Mrs. Art Swale, Mrs. Will Noonan, Mrs. Maurice Olesen, Mrs. Will Swale, Mrs. Art Craft, Mrs. Ed Wells, Mrs. Fred Olesen, Mrs. Lou Neumann, Mrs. Milt Whitcher, Mrs. George Scott and Mrs. Anson Quackenbush, all of whom are deceased.

The motto of the club, "Let us have heads that think and hearts that beat." Club colors, purple and gold.

Meeting day is the third Thursday of each month, entertaining the mothers at each May meeting. A few of the former members have carried on through the years with new ones added.

Once a year a social evening is held, entertaining the husbands.

At present there are twelve members. Present officers are: President, Mrs. Charles Swale; vice-president, Mrs. Oscar Reeder; secretary, Mrs. John Herschinger; treasurer, Mrs. Willard Ash.

## Speck's Diner

## Boot Hill Supper Club

A. D. Bernau, Owner



## WEDNESDAY ART CLUB

The Wednesday Art club was organized in 1900 when several West Union women felt the need for more culture in the community. This was the second art club in town and was presided over by Mrs. E. A. McIlree, wife of the owner and editor of the Fayette County Union.

Other names in those early years were Mrs. E. C. Dorland, Mrs. C. C. Dorland, Mrs. D. D. Waterbury, Mrs. C. F. Chambers, Mrs. Harry Blackman, Mrs. E. M. Phillips, Mrs. C. W. Dykins, Mrs. John Blunt, Mrs. F. W. Schneider, Mrs. C. J. McLaughlin, Mrs. Frank Camp, Mrs. Oscar Heiserman, Mrs. McGlathery, Mrs. E. H. Estey and Mrs. W. B. Thomas.

One year's program consisted of studying painting and sculpture of a designated country. Also included on each program was a critic who informed members of their errors in grammar and pronunciation.

In 1910 the club became affiliated with the Iowa Federation of Women's clubs.

Early club projects included offering prizes to boys for the best kept lawns and for the best wren houses. The art club also paid for mowing the park lawn at the depot. During World War I members sewed for the Red Cross, adopted four French babies and sent books and magazines to men in the armed forces.

Current projects of the club are as follows: Support of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, contributions to various scholarship and loan funds, crippled children's camps and Indian Student aid, provide Christmas gifts for patients in the County Home, decorate a window in the business area for the holiday season, contributed to the West Union Ambulance Fund, supported the tree planting project at the high school, annual gift to the Heiserman library for books, and present a monetary award to an outstanding art student.

The present membership numbers 23. Current officers are as follows: President, Mrs. Richard Knutson; vice-president, Mrs. Adrian Rademaker; secretary, Mrs. Ted Doscher, and treasurer, Mrs. John Juergens.

## CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

The Catholic Daughters, a national organization, established Court Little Flower No. 814 in West Union on June 24, 1923. Mrs. Anna Walsh was the first Regent.

Fifty ladies were on the charter with Mrs. Anna Walsh, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Harry Corkery, Fayette; Mrs. Grace McSweeney, Fayette; Mrs. Ella Strudthoff, Hawkeye, are the remaining charter members.

Objects of this organization are moral and intellectual improvement for its members, also charity, religious, benevolent. These objectives include donating books to the Public Library, contributing to the missions by giving layettes and money, giving time and money to civic and Christmas charities, conforming to state and national laws by having programs which stress civic and national issues as well as religious.

The Court celebrated its golden anniversary June 24th, 1973, with a reception from 2 until 4 o'clock on that day with the State Regent, Miss Marcella Fandel,

Wittemore, District Deputy, Miss Rena Daily, Waucoma and several courts from neighboring towns. Pastors from the neighboring towns, all past regents and all members were invited to attend.

The present officers, newly elected, include Mrs. Jerome Skretta, regent; Mrs. Donald Lee, first vice-regent; Mrs. James Schmelzer, second vice-regent; Mrs. Helen Westbrook, financial secretary; Mrs. Melvin Baumler, treasurer; Mrs. L. T. Philips, historian; Mrs. M. J. Molumby, lecturer; Mrs. Charles Broghammer, monitor; Mrs. Margaret Broghammer, organist, and Mrs. Joseph Franzen, Mrs. Robert Minger, Mrs. Virginia Lansing, trustees.

## M.D.S. CLUB

The M.D.S. Club was organized in the fall of 1926 by twelve ladies living northwest of West Union, namely Mrs. E. C. Olesen, Mrs. Will Noonan, Mrs. Mauria Olesen, Mrs. Jim Wetherbee, Mrs. Emil Moschel, Mrs. George Scott, Mrs. Chris Jensen, Mrs. Ray Fels, Mrs. R. D. Smith, Mrs. Fred Price, Mrs. Ed Wells and Mrs. Harry L. Olesen. Later the membership was increased to sixteen.

The members gather once a month for a social meeting, with refreshments served by the hostess.

The present officers are Mrs. Harry Olesen, president; Mrs. Morris Christensen, vice-president, and Mrs. Ted Reisner, secretary-treasurer.

Of the original twelve, only Mrs. Harry Olesen and Mrs. Ray Fels continue as active members, while Mrs. Chris Jensen is an honorary member. Besides those mentioned above, the present membership of ten includes Mrs. Felix Grafenberg, Mrs. Arnold Kilcher, Mrs. Doran Meyer, Mrs. Leota Moser, Mrs. Lawrence Minton and Mrs. F. W. Pape.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Prior to 1940 the women of the Methodist Church were organized into two societies: The Ladies' Aid which was a money-raising organization and very important to the support of the church, the minister's salary, and the upkeep of the buildings, and the Missionary Society, which was a study group, but also supported Missions with contributions.

Before they were reorganized into the Women's Society in 1940, Miss Maybelle Blunt was president of the Ladies' Aid and Mrs. Effie House was president of the Missionary Society. The first president of the WSCS was Mrs. Ella Humphry.

There were 53 charter members of the WSCS and these are still active in their society: Mrs. Elmer Grafenberg, Mrs. Charles Halverson, Mrs. Lawrence Cannon, Mrs. Harry Cline, Mrs. John Herschinger, Mrs. Howard Herschinger, Mrs. Charles Swale, Mrs. Ella Humphry, Mrs. Clint Humphry and Mrs. Harry Wenger.

Two Circles were soon organized: Busy Bees and the Silver Chain. Now there are five circles. Three meet in the afternoon, one in the morning, and one in the evening.

Methodist women still concern themselves with

Barness Dodge

Everett Biermann  
Construction



money along with Missions and in the last 15 years some of the main projects have been a food stand at the County Fair, an annual turkey dinner, and for the last three years a big bazaar.

In May of 1973, this group became the United Methodist Women with 149 members.

The PURPOSE of the society states: "The organized unit of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church."

The members try to put this PURPOSE into action through study groups, special programs, prayer groups, and support of the mission field with special contributions.

#### EASTER STAR

West Union Chapter No. 110, Order of the Eastern Star, has a present membership of 138 members. Of this membership, 21 living members have received their 50 year pin.

The Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month in the new Masonic Temple which they share with their Masonic brothers.

The Charter was granted on September 15, 1892, so in the year 1974 will have been organized 82 years.

Present officers include Beverly Crowe, worthy matron; Cecil Snively, worthy patron; Patricia Hanson, secretary; Clara Whitford, treasurer.

#### PEO

Chapter DB of West Union was the 80th chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood to be organized in Iowa. The nine charter members of the local chapter in 1903 were Jennie Ainsworth, Maud Ainsworth, Carrie Blunt, Esther Chambers, Cora Kent, Minnie Lawyer, Lyda Minchin Grace Schneider and Marian Spaulding. Since that time the chapter has maintained a membership of about 30 women.

P.E.O. was started in 1869 as a sorority at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, the first co-educational school west of the Mississippi. In recent years it has become a leading educational and philanthropic organization, with chapters in every state in the Union and in Canada. The P.E.O. Record, published monthly, binds the members together.

The Sisterhood manages Cottey College, junior college for girls, in Nevada, Mo. The school is fully accredited and maintains a strong faculty.

PEO celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Sisterhood in 1969.

Officers of the chapter for the present year are Marian Freed, president; Marolyn Bostrom, vice president; Judy Bennett, recording secretary; Sall Falb, corresponding secretary; Katherine Jones treasurer; Marjorie Crandall, chaplain, and Virginia Medberry, guard.

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FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS REUNION, 1948.

# West Union Tire & DX Service



# PROFESSIONAL PERSONS

## PROFESSIONAL PERSONS

During the first 125 years of West Union's history the city and county have been served by many fine professional men, some of whom have been mentioned other places in this publication.

Following is a summary of the private professional practices serving West Union at the present time.

### DENTISTS

Two private dental practices provide oral health care for residents.

DR. M. J. MOLUMBY, D.D.S., son of Dr. L. F. Molumby, West Union dentist, received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Iowa in 1944. Upon completion of his studies he was commissioned a first Lieutenant in the United States Army. He was sent to the Medical Field Service School where he completed his officer's training. Before leaving the service, Dr. Molumby was promoted to the rank of captain. In 1956, while in the Army Reserve he was promoted to major.

After being separated from the service in 1946, he joined his father, Dr. L. F. Molumby, in the practice of dentistry in West Union in the First National Bank building. This association lasted for 22 years. During this time they had branch offices in Hawkeye and Fayette. M. J. is married, and is the father of seven children. He is a member of Holy Name Catholic church.

DR. THOMAS BENNETT, native of Manning, established a private dental practice at 100 South Vine street in September of 1969.

Dr. Bennett graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1965 and entered the University of Iowa where he received his D.D.S. in 1969. He is a member of the United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Lions, and the American Dental Society. Dr. Bennett and his wife have two children.

### MEDICAL CLINIC AND PHYSICIANS

The senior partner of the Medical Clinic is DR. WILLIAM J. WOLF, a native of Stacyville.

Dr. Wolf graduated from Loras College in Dubuque in 1941 and the University of Iowa Medical School in 1944. He interned at Wesley Hospital, Wichita, Kan., before serving two years in the army medical corps.

In 1947, Dr. Wolf joined Dr. Ardo Hess, West Union, in his practice in the Bockenstedt building on South Vine. The two men built the clinic building at 109 Adams Street, present site of German Mutual, and it was at this time the partnership assumed the name, "Medical Clinic." Dr. Hess left the practice in 1952 to specialize and Dr. Wolf practiced alone until joined by Dr. David A. Freed in 1954.

The Wolf - Freed partnership built the present Medical Clinic building at 110 Jefferson Street, next to the hospital, in 1960.

Dr. Wolf is a member of Holy Name Catholic church, Rotary, Elks, Moose, is a Charter Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Past President of Family Physicians, Past President of County Medical Society, Member of Iowa Medical Society, the A.M.A. and has served for 25 years as the medical advisor for the Fayette County Draft Board. He resides with his family at 210 Jefferson Street.

DAVID A. FREED was originally from Beloit, Wis. He served in Germany in the Army of the occupation from 1945-47. He returned to the University of Wisconsin at Madison, graduating in 1952. He interned at Portland, Ore., in 1953, returning to the midwest to practice one year at Elkhorn, Wis., before joining the West Union Medical Clinic in November of 1954.

Dr. Freed is present Chief of Staff at the hospital, Charter Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, Fayette County Medical Association, Iowa Medical Society, A.M.A., Minowa Area Health Council, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons for children. Dr. and Mrs. Freed are members of Zion Lutheran church and have four children.

DR. LARRY H. BOEKE spent his childhood in Hubbard. He received his bachelor's degree from State University of Iowa and graduated from Medical School from S.U.I. June of 1963. He served his internship at Broadlawns, Polk County Hospital, Des Moines.

Dr. Boeke entered the U.S. Navy July 1, 1964, and became a Naval Flight Surgeon. After his discharge he returned to Broadlawns for six months resident training before joining the Medical Clinic in West Union, July 1, 1967.

Dr. and Mrs. Boeke are members of United Methodist church and are parents of three children. He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians, of Family Physicians, Member of Iowa Medical Society, Aerospace Medical Association, Jaycees, Masons and Shrines, HAL Club, Past President Minowa Health Council and a past President of Cedar Valley Mental Health Clinic.

Although DR. JOHN A. WEIBEL was born in Denver, Colo., he moved to Chariton, at an early age. He received his B.A. at Northeast Missouri State in 1964 and taught school for one semester before finishing his pre-med studies at Colorado State University.

Dr. Weibel spent from 1965-69 at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines before receiving his D.O. Degree. He interned at Des Moines General in Des Moines from July 1969-1970. He assisted a semester at the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery before joining the Medical Clinic staff in March of 1971.

DR. WILLIAM E. WALSH was born in Hawkeye in

Federated Insurance Co.

Dan Miller

Bert B. Hanson  
& Associates



1901. After graduating from high school he attended college at McGill University, Montreal, Canada and State University of Iowa, Iowa City. He graduated from Creighton Medical School in Omaha, Neb., in 1929. Dr. Walsh interned in Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs for one year. He started practicing medicine with his father, Dr. T. N. Walsh, in Hawkeye in June of 1930 and set up a private practice of his own in West Union on 1940.

During World War II, Dr. Walsh served in the South Pacific as a commander in the United States Navy from 1943-47.

Dr. Walsh is a member of the Lutheran church of Hawkeye, Windsor Masonic Lodge, is a 32nd degree Mason, Cedar Rapids Consistory, El Kahir Shrine of Cedar Rapids, Fayette County Medical Society, Iowa State Medical Society, AMA, The American Academy of Family Physicians, and Businessmen's Association of West Union and Hawkeye.

Also his gracious and unfailing medical service and help at all of the High School football games will be long remembered.

### OPTOMETRIST

#### NORMAN W. KILBURN, O.D.

Norman Kilburn was born in Creston, Iowa, and received his education in the Creston school system. He enlisted in the army in June of 1943 and served as a rifleman with the 71st Infantry Regiment, 44th Division in Europe during World War II and was decorated for combat patrols behind enemy lines. After the war, Kilburn resumed his education at the University of Nebraska and was graduated with the O.D. degree from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1948.

Dr. Kilburn moved to West Union in January of 1949 and established an optometric practice in two rooms above the Fayette County Union. Two years later the office was moved to larger quarters in the Bockenstedt building on South Vine street where it remained until 1965 when it was moved to its present location at 105 South Vine Street. He has served as president of the Cedar Valley Academy of Optometry and the Upper Iowa Optometric Society and the West Union Rotary club, Commander of the West Union American Legion Post and Elder in the Bethel United Presbyterian Church. Dr. Kilburn and his wife reside on an acreage south of town on highway 150.

### LAW OFFICES AND PRACTICES

#### ANTES LAW OFFICE

The history of the Antes Law Firm extends back to 1855 when Lucian L. Ainsworth came to West Union from New York and opened a law office. In 1856, he formed a partnership with C. A. Newcomb, which continued until 1859. The following year he formed a partnership with C. H. Miller, which continued for 13 years.

A. N. Hobson joined Lucian Ainsworth in 1875. Then in 1893, his son, W. J. Ainsworth, was admitted to the firm which thus became Ainsworth, Hobson and Ains-

sworth. A year later, when Mr. Hobson was elected District Court Judge, he withdrew from the firm.

C. W. Dykins entered the firm in 1899, and the firm continued until 1902, when Lucian L. Ainsworth died. In the following year E. H. Estey joined the firm. Mr. Estey withdrew from the firm in 1905, and the office was operated by W. J. Ainsworth alone until 1907.

C. B. Hughes joined the firm at that time for six years. W. H. Antes joined the firm in 1916. The firm operated as Ainsworth and Antes until Mr. Ainsworth's death in 1926.

W. H. Antes was joined by his son, C. W. Antes, in 1938. This partnership continued until 1945 when W. H. Antes withdrew to become District Court Judge. Charles Antes was alone in the firm until joined by his son, Jon Antes, in 1971. Charles Antes withdrew from the firm in 1972 when he was appointed District Court Judge. Since that time, Jon Antes is managing the firm alone. The Antes law firm is located in the First National Bank building.

### MARK BUCHHEIT

Mark D. Buchheit, opened his law office in West Union, on Feb. 1, 1953, at 113½ N. Vine Street.

Since moving to West Union, Mark Buchheit has been active in civic, state and international affairs, having made three trips to Europe including visits behind the Iron Curtain and one trip to Asia in the 1960's. He received a citation from the CARE Foundation in 1965 for his work for needy people around the world.

Mr. Buchheit was elected to the office of Fayette County Attorney in 1954 and was re-elected to that office for two more terms. He lost in a bid for the U.S. Congressional seat from the Second District in 1960. He is a member of the County, District, State and American Bar Association, admitted to practice in the State of Iowa.

### DONOHUE LAW OFFICE, P.C.

The Donohue Law Office was initially established in 1958 on the second floor of the Bockenstedt Building on South Vine Street, as part of the law firm of Donohue, Wilkins and Donohue, which up to that time had maintained office in New Hampton. The original office was staffed by Richard L. Donohue. In 1966, Mr. Donohue moved the office from South Vine Street to its present location at 101 East Main street.

The original partnership was dissolved and in 1960 the West Union office became independent of the New Hampton office, even though the firm in West Union continued to be known as Donohue, Wilkins and Donohue. R. L. Donohue continued as a solo practitioner until 1971.

In 1971, Pat W. Brooks joined Mr. Donohue in the practice of law as an associate and the firm name was changed to Donohue and Brooks. The next year Mr. Brooks retired from the firm and James S. Updegraff joined the firm. With Mr. Updegraff's arrival the firm name was changed to the Donohue Law Office, and on Oct. 1, 1972, the firm, previously a sole proprietorship, became a professional corporation.

# Moore's Trading Post

Ralph Moore, Owner



R. L. Donohue was born and raised in New Hampton, received his education at the University of Iowa and was admitted to practice in 1957, when he commenced practice in West Union. Mr. Donohue served as a naval officer during the Korean War. He and his family live on small acreage near West Union.

Mr. Updegraff was born in Ohio and raised there and Iowa City. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, and was admitted to practice in 1967. He served in the armed forces for five years before settling in West Union.

#### S. ESTEY

Three Esteys, a father and his sons, have practiced law in West Union since 1903.

E. H. Estey was a member of the law firm of Ainsworth, Dykins and Estey during the years 1903 and 1904. From 1905 until 1910 he was a member of the firm of Clements & Estey. Then, in 1910, he opened his own office.

The firm name became Estey & Estey in 1931 when his son, R. F. Estey, became a partner. The father-son team continued until 1943 at which time R. F. Estey entered the military service. E. H. Estey carried on the law practice alone until R. F. Estey returned from military service two years later.

In 1945, E. S. Estey, who was admitted to the Iowa bar in 1941, but entered the military service immediately thereafter, became a partner in the firm of Estey and Estey.

R. F. Estey continued to practice law in the partnership until he died in 1949. E. H. Estey, although semi-retired for the last several years of his life, continued as partner in the firm until his death in 1959. Since his death, E. S. Estey has carried on the practice alone, at its location at 109 South Vine street.

#### LEON LAYTON

Leon R. Layton has practiced law in West Union since passing the State Bar Examinations and being admitted to practice in June 1922, following his graduation from the State University of Iowa Law school.

He first worked in the office of Ainsworth & Antes, until sometime that same summer when he was appointed County Attorney of Fayette county. He continued to serve in that capacity until 1929.

He entered private practice in 1929. Upon being admitted to the bar, he had secured quarters in the old Bank of West Union, now the First National Bank of West Union and remains in that same location.

#### TRAEGER & KOEMPEL

The law firm of Traeger & Koempel consists of Edgar A. Traeger and his daughter, Alice T. Koempel.

Mr. Traeger was admitted to the bar in 1932 and began the practice of law in West Union in February of 1934. In July of that year he became a member of the firm of Hancock & Traeger, entering into partnership with the late H. P. Hancock who had practiced law in West Union since 1880. This partnership continued until

1943 when Mr. Hancock, at the age of 91, suffered a broken hip and was forced to retire. Mr. Traeger continued the practice of law at the same location until he was joined by his daughter, Alice, who received her law degree at the University of Iowa and was admitted to the bar in February of 1948. They eventually formed the partnership known as Traeger & Koempel.

The partnership moved from its office quarters at 111 N. Vine to 103 N. Vine, in 1968.

Mr. Traeger was born at Sumner, Iowa and they moved to West Union when he was elected Clerk of Court in 1926. He has been active in community affairs, having been mayor of West Union from 1938 to 1950. He is a member of the Fayette County Bar Association and the Iowa State Bar Association. The Traegers had three children.

Mrs. Koempel is a member of the Fayette County Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, and has been City Attorney since 1967. She has two children.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE CHARLES ANTES, First District Court Judge, was born in Waucoma, Iowa, and is the son of Judge and Mrs. W. H. Antes.

After completing his schooling in the West Union Community School system, C. W. Antes spent two years at Upper Iowa college in Fayette, before entering college at the University of Iowa where he received his B.A. Degree in 1936. It was at Iowa, also, where he earned his J.D. Degree in 1938.

Upon completing his college work he returned to West Union to practice law with his father for a period of four years. From 1942 to 1945 he served as an investigator with the U. S. Civil Service Commission in Denver, Colo. In 1945, W. H. Antes went on the bench and Charles took over the Antes law firm for his father. This history repeated itself in January of 1972, when Jon Antes joined his father in practice and Charles retired from the practice on Sept. 1, 1972 to assume the position of District Court Judge, to which he had been appointed by Gov. Robert Ray.

C. W. Antes is a member of the local, county, state and American Bar Associations and the Iowa District Judges Association. He is a member of the Methodist church and has held nearly every office of the local church. At the present time he is chairman of the nomination committee of the Iowa Conference of the Methodist church and is a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist churches.

He is affiliated with the West Union Masonic Lodge number 69, AF & AM, the El Kahir Shrine, Cedar Rapids Consistory, thirty-third Degree Mason. During 1968 he was Eastern Star Worthy Grand Patron of Iowa and is chairman of the board for the Barthell Home in Decorah for the Iowa Eastern Star.

Charles has given much of his time and service to Education. The various positions he has held are as follows: Fayette County Board of Education from 1947-

## Good Samaritan Center

## Palmer Memorial Hospital



1957 and again from 1970 until he went on the bench in 1972. From 1957-1960 he was a member and president of the first board of education for the North Fayette County Community School District, member of the State Board of Education from 1960-1968, the last four years of which he was president of the State Board and for 1966-1968 he served on the National Board of Directors for the State Boards of Education.

Judge C. W. Antes and his wife, Dorothy, are the parents of four children.

#### VETERINARY CLINIC

The West Union Veterinary Clinic was established in June of 1933 when Dr. and Mrs. Merrill F. Frevert moved to West Union after Dr. Frevert's graduation from I.S.U. DR. FREVERT practiced a few months in a building downtown which had originally been a blacksmith shop. He moved his veterinary office to his home on West Bradford within a year. In 1952, the Freverts built the building which has, up to this time, housed the present clinic.

Six years later, in 1958, Dr. Eugene Scallon came and bought into the practice to form a partnership with Dr. Frevert. The Scallons were affiliated with the practice until the summer of 1964 when Dr. Scallon and family moved to California, to enter the practice of a small animal clinic.

In July of 1964, DR. WAYNE BICKNESE, of the Davenport area, joined the practice and became a partner the following year.

Dr. L. T. Nusz was an associate in the practice from October 1971 to September 1973.

#### ENGINEERS

Bert B. Hanson and Associates was incorporated in 1958 by Bert B. Hanson and Roger D. Hanson. From inception in 1948, the firm had been a sole proprietorship. Bert B. Hanson's early practice was primarily highway and structural engineering for various counties in northeast Iowa. As the professional staff has increased, they have also practiced, and are now practicing, a general Civil Engineering and Land Surveying service to municipal and private clients. An office in Independence was opened in 1967, and their Cedar Falls office opened in 1973.

Bert B. Hanson was active in profession until his death in 1968. James M. Doyle, Harold M. Jensen and Lyle G. TeKippe purchased a partnership interest in the firm in 1972. Roger D. Hanson is president of the firm.

Presently, they specialize in land surveying, and in civil, highway, structural and sanitary engineering. Firm principals are Registered Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana. Present employees include 13 engineers and land surveyors, and approximately 25 technical employees.

#### POLITICAL

##### SENATOR HEYING

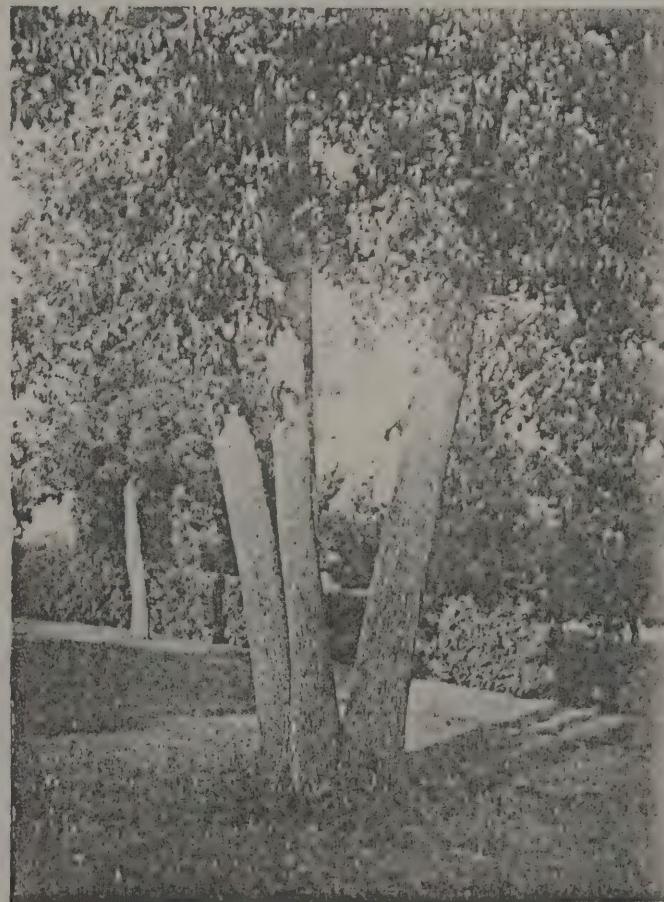
HILARIUS L. HEYING was born in Winneshiel county and graduated from Columbia Academy (now Loras College) Dubuque, in 1936. He and his wife moved to Fayette county in 1940 and he has been a businessman and farmer in the community since that time.

In 1965, H. L. (Larry) Heying ran on the Democratic ticket and was elected state senator from the Forty-Fifth Senatorial District, consisting of Fayette and Winneshiel counties and served in this capacity for one term from 1965-1969. He was re-elected to this office for his second term in 1973.

The Senator and his wife are the parents of four children and reside at 115 Jefferson Street.

As a young businessman he was active in civic and church organizations. He is a 4th degree Knights of Columbus, President of Heying Firms, Inc., director of Holy Name Church, board member of Tourism Council, board member of West Union Industries, board member of the Country club.

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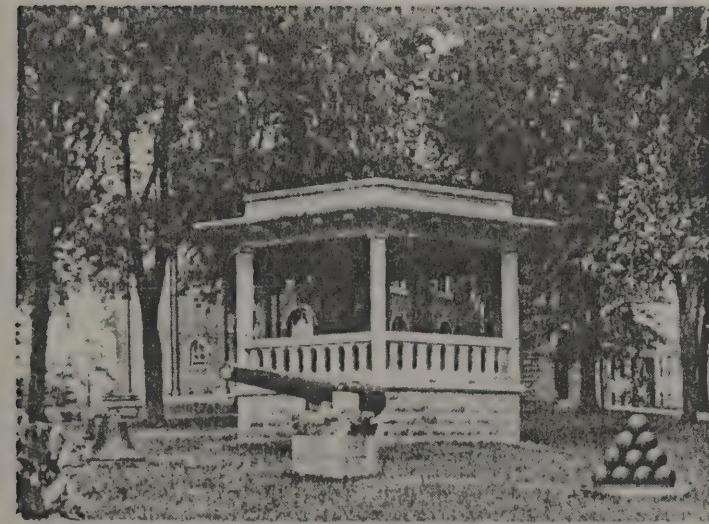
LINDEN PARK on the west side of West Union. This place was considered to be the show place of West Union. Owner of Linden Park was J. W. Bopp. The original chain link fence still remains on the property owned by Robert Murrell's.

# Gage & Gage Plumbing

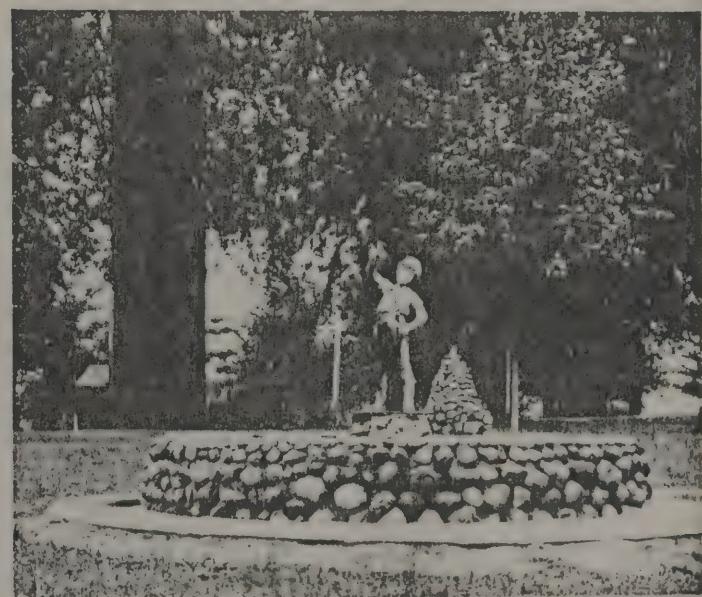




CENTENNIAL OF THE INVENTION of the McCormick reaper 1931, in front of Doscher Implement Co. Universalist church in the corner is the site of the present DX station.



FORMER LANDMARKS — The pagoda on the courthouse lawn was torn down in the spring of 1966 after being one of West Union's landmarks for almost 50 years. Often referred to as the bandshell, the pagoda was built to balance the fountain on the north side of the sidewalks. During World War II the cannon and balls were purchased along with other scrap iron around town to be melted down and used for war purposes. Courthouse in this scene is the one which burned in 1922.



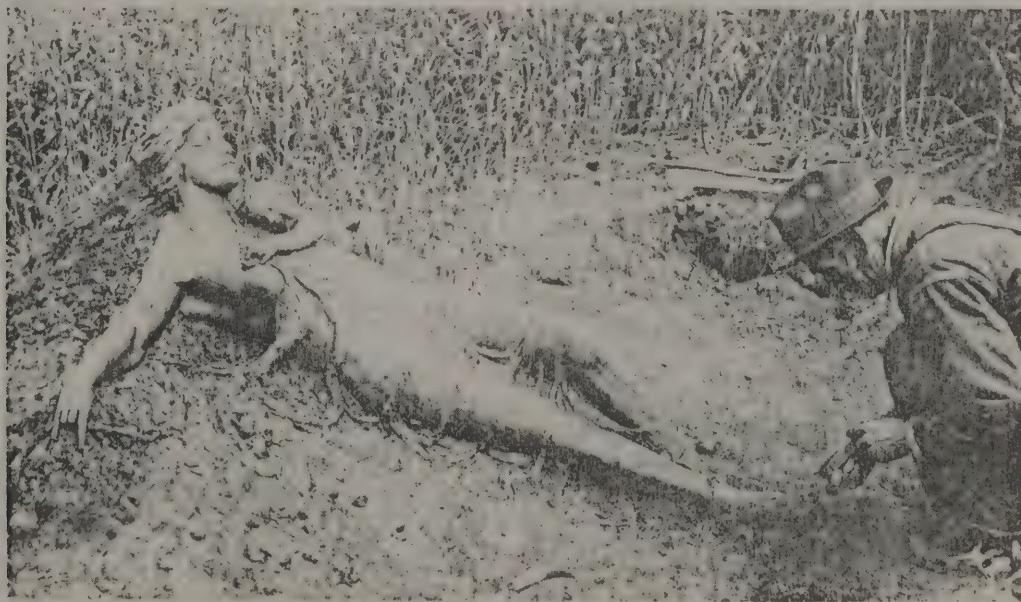
FOUNTAIN ON THE LAWN of the Fayette County Court House prior to 1930. Notice the old school in background, also the old stand pipe in the center of the picture.

## Friendly Tavern





FAYETTE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE 1911—Pictured are Frank Limbeck, Will Wright and Harry Blunt in the interior of the second court house.



TRANSIENT at work on a mud and sand creation down by the railroad tracks on South Pine street, approximately 1938.

Michael Insurance Agency

Sally's Beauty Shoppe



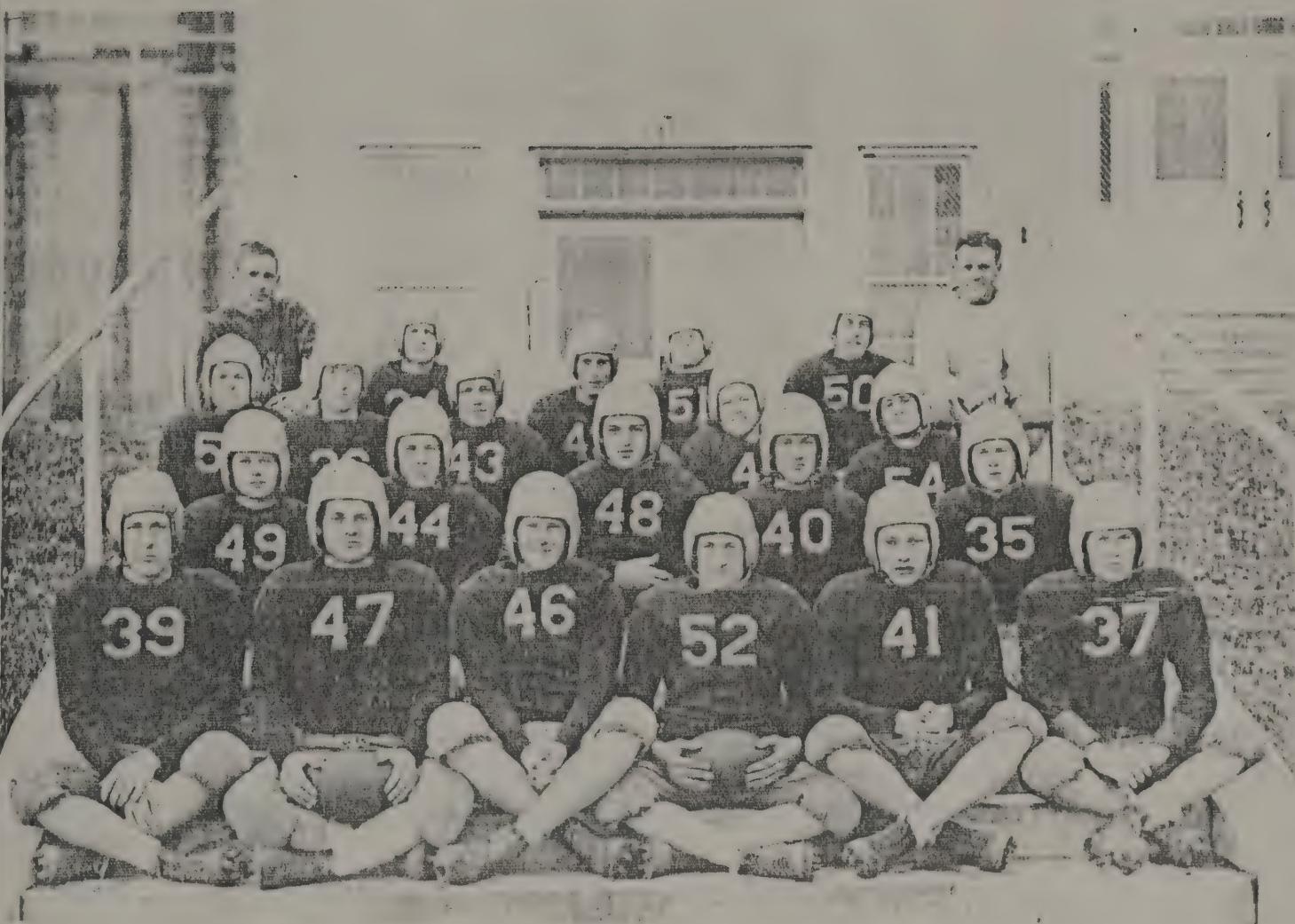


CIRCUS PARADE about 1910.



# Fayette County Union





WEST UNION BOMBERS, 1942 — Bottom row, left to right, Bob Wenthe, Cuddy Bernau, Lionel Weston, Marty Frey, Riley Strudhoff and Eldon Crandall; second row, Marvin Peterson, Earl Daniels, Don Clark, Virgil Pratt and Ralph Blockhus; third row, Russell McAlley, Albert Swale,

Harlan Biermann, Danny Mitchell and Dick Van Sickle; top row, Coach Dick Benning, Leo Olson, Jack Van Sickle, Ron Crandall, Bernard Reisner and Coach Leo Smith.



CORNER OF PLUM AND WALNUT showing Court House, jail and school after the electricity wires were added to the town.



COURT HOUSE and jail taken from Walnut street looking west. Notice the stand pipe in the center of the picture.

**Philips Garage**

**West Union Co-op Co.**





ETHEL CROSBY BLUNT in front of U.S. Express office, present site of Maynard's Barber Shop.



VINE STREET during a big snow during the 1920's.



END OF THE LINE — West Union was the end of the line for the stagecoach from Manchester. Before the Rock Island Railroad traveled through West Union, this coach, called "The Arlington," made regular trips to bring passengers here from Manchester.



DAM AND LAKE at Echo Valley State Park during the 1930's.



OLD WEST UNION STANDPIPE.



CORNER of Vine and Plum looking north in the early 1930's.

# Peoples Natural Gas





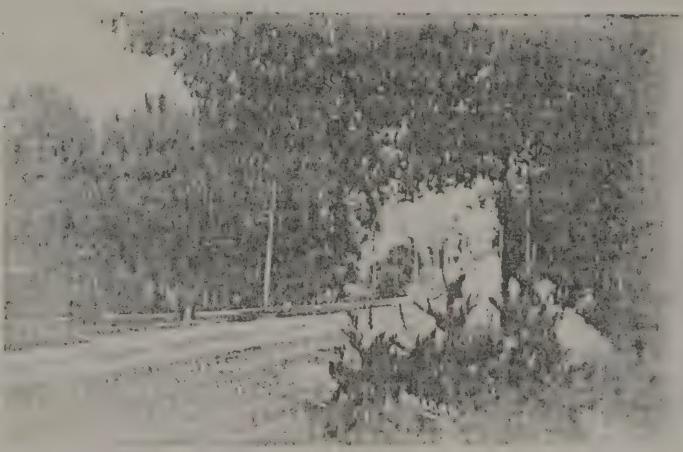
PARADE around 1910.



CONCRETE BRIDGE on South Vine street by railroad tracks.



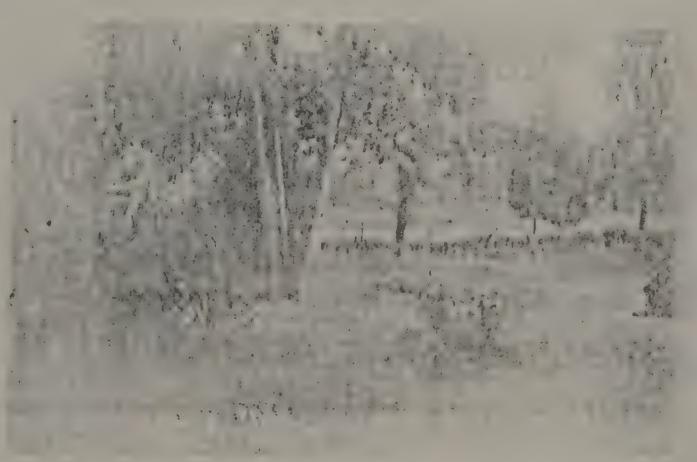
STUDEBAKER car in a parade around 1910 in front of the Rex Hotel.



SOUTH VINE STREET looking north. The dirt street is lined with board sidewalk.



RIDING IN STYLE — Jessie Ed Philips and his son, Carl were riding in style when this picture was taken in 1908. The car is a 1905 Rambler belonging to Mr. Philips.



LINDEN PARK, West Union, Iowa in the early 1900's.



# HISTORY OF BUSINESSES

## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank of West Union opened its doors for business on Feb. 1, 1934.

The new bank was organized under the banking act of 1933 and fully qualified under the Banking laws which guarantee all deposits. This bank took over the assets of the Fayette County National Bank which was closed by the bank moratorium declared by President Roosevelt in 1933.

The Board of Directors which organized this bank were Frank Camp, W. H. Antes, D. R. Lynch, H. H. Paulson and C. H. Howard. The officers chosen were Frank Camp, president; W. H. Antes, vice-president; D. R. Lynch, cashier; Bert Hall, teller, and Carroll W. Grimes, teller and bookkeeper.

The First National was first located in the building formerly occupied by the Fayette County National Bank at 11 South Vine Street. In 1935, the bank purchased and moved into its present building at 115 North Vine Street.

Since that time the interior of the building has been completely remodeled and modernized several different

times. In 1943, a fire caused by lightning coming in on electrical wire broke out in the main floor of the bank building. Considerable damage was done, however, it was confined to a small area. In 1949, the old iron fixtures in the bank lobby were removed and new modern teller cages were installed. In 1967, the Estey building to the north was added and more remodeling and modernization took place and provided more space for conference rooms and officer area. This also provided space for a new directors' room. Also much new and modern banking equipment was added to the bookkeeping room.

In 1966, a Drive-In-Bank was built by the First National on the corner of Bradford and State streets. This opened on March 19th and enabled the customer to transact his banking business without leaving his car.

On the beginning day of business, Feb. 1, 1934, the deposits of the bank were approximately \$175,000. Capital accounts of the bank were \$60,000. These deposits have grown to over \$20,000,000 in the 40 years the bank has served the local community. Total capital accounts have grown to over \$1,600,000. Through a philosophy of local involvement of the directors, officers, and employees, the bank has shown above average growth for communities of the same population size.

In 1934, the total loans of the bank were \$12,000 and today the total loans are over \$12,000,000 which indicates the desire of the directors and officers to place the customers deposits to work in the local community.

The present directors of the First National Bank are W. H. Antes, C. W. Antes, John C. Mihm, George B. Woodard, jr., and Carroll W. Grimes, W. H. Antes, chairman of the board, and Carroll W. Grimes, president, have served the bank since its organization 40 years ago.

A capable staff is all important and the First National has that staff as demonstrated by the fact that Rachel Saboe, assistant cashier; Lorraine Jonsberg, assistant cashier; Florence Stensland, teller, and Marie Kleppe, teller, have served 30, 25, 20 and 18 years, respectively. Richard Vagts, Senior vice-president, has been with the bank 23 years. Evelyn Schultz, Darlene Cline have served the bank 14 years; Carolyn Weber, 12 years; Robert J. Ralston, Senior vice-president; Bruce J. Crandall, vice-president and cashier, 11 and nine years, respectfully. Other employees with us less than 10 years of service include Kathy Mittelstadt, Mary Guyer, Phyllis Jackson, Marcia Soppe, Marcia Larson, Vicki Davis, Sydney Vance and James Haines. John Grimes has served as farm representative for the past two years.

Many former employees are still living in the community and all of these along with the present officers and employees have contributed extensively to the growth of the bank.

It is very appropriate that the First National of West Union can celebrate its 40th anniversary the same year the city of West Union is celebrating its 125th anniversary Jubilee.



MR. AND MRS. CARROLL GRIMES and W. H. Antes at the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the First National Bank.

# First National Bank





FARMERS SAVINGS BANK built in 1966.

#### FARMERS SAVINGS BANK

The first meeting of the founders of the Farmers Savings Bank was held on April 1, 1913. On April 22, 1913, the Department of Banking issued a certificate authorizing the Farmers Savings Bank to conduct the business of banking under Iowa law for 50 years.

The bank formally opened for business on Nov. 14, 1913, in the front office of the Clermont Hardware store building, with J. A. Erickson as cashier. Mr. Erickson served in that capacity for a period of 37 years until his retirement Oct. 1, 1950. April of 1914, the bank moved into a new building which was remodeled in 1953 where the Clermont office of the Farmers Savings Bank continues to transact business. A 50-year renewal of charter was authorized on May 28, 1963.

A new building was built in the summer of 1966 at 205 North Vine in West Union and on Nov. 7, 1966, the bank was authorized by the Department of Banking to move its charter to West Union and maintain an office in

Clermont. Records were transferred and business transacted in West Union on this date.

The office of president has been held by Christian Miller, sr., 1913-1927; J. F. Miller, jr., 1928-1946; Mrs. Louise Miller, 1946-1952; Karl A. Miller, 1952-1971; Adrian Rademaker, 1971 - date.

During these years, the following have been elected cashiers: J. A. Erickson, 1913-1950; E. W. Hilgemann, 1950-1956; L. H. Meier, 1956-1972; Lee C. Pape, 1972-date.

The present officers and staff are Adrian Rademaker, president; E. S. Estey, vice-president, Lloyd H. Meier, vice-president; Lee C. Pape, cashier, Arnold E. Guyer assistant cashier; Loraine Weston, bookkeeper; Judith Woods, bookkeeper; Kathryn Weidemann, bookkeeper, and Alyce Woltzen, bookkeeper.

Directors are Norman H. Amundson, E. S. Estey, Chrystol M. Hansen, Oliver A. Hansen, Carl Lueder, Lloyd H. Meier, Karl A. Miller, Linus Putz and Adrian Rademaker.

# Farmers Savings Bank



## BEMISS DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

In 1956 Bemiss Distributing Company opened for business in the old stone barn behind Wilbur Ford. Two years after it was started, the business was moved to a location on Linden Street.

Capital Tobacco of Charles City owned the firm in the early years with Mr. Robert Bemiss as an employee. Mr. Bemiss eventually purchased the business, and in 1970 the firm moved to a new location and new building at 102-104 Cherry Street.

Robert Bemiss died in July of 1971. Gary and Paul Bemiss became the new owners in October of that year. Expansion on the new building was begun for a new cooler in May, 1973 and is now completed. Present employees are Gary Bemiss, Paul Bemiss, Melvin Ewing, Paul Bunn, Ray Murphy, Denny Palmer, Mike Murphy and Sharon Bricker.

The Bemiss Company distributes Rock Springs beverages, Grain Belt, Budweiser, Michelob and Huber beer, serving several surrounding counties. The President's Plaque was presented to Bemiss Distributing Co. from Grain Belt Breweries of Minneapolis in recognition of outstanding sales performance in 1971-72.

## FARMERS CREAMERY OF WEST UNION

Farmers Creamery of West Union was started in 1911 when farmers gained a part of the business by buying one share per cow. Businessmen were also allowed to buy shares.

Then in 1951 the shares were bought back and the business began to be operated as a co-op. Just farmers and land owners could become members. The name of the business became West Union Co-operative Creamery.

From 1911 until 1955 the creamery purchased cream and made butter. Then in 1955, the creamery began to buy the farmers' whole milk, separate it, and make butter. The skim milk was sold. The peak of production at the creamery came in 1952 when more than one million pounds of butter were made.

In 1966, the West Union Creamery merged with the Farmers Co-operative Creamery Association of Cresco. Since its merger, it has been basically a receiving station for canned and bulk whole milk.

The present manager, Eldon Stoffel, who succeeded Tom Weston as manager in 1967 and who in turn had succeeded Fleet Frieden as manager in 1955, has been with the local creamery since 1968. His assistant at this time is Don Martin. Mrs. Helena Randall, who is now retired, was the secretary of the creamery for 28 years. The creamery at present has four contract haulers, two hauling bulk milk and two hauling can milk.

## CONNER REXALL DRUGS

Harold Conner kept two pieces of furnishings when he started Connor's Rexall Drug Store in 1951 — the soda fountain and the peanut machine.

The rest of the drug store was remodeled and a new front was added before business operations began. A high arched door with a transom near the ceiling was one of the things which was removed and remodeled.

Mr. Connor, a 1950 graduate of Drake University's college of pharmacy, was in partnership with the Donlon brothers of Decorah for his first four and one-half years of business. They purchased the drug store from Max Memler, who had bought out Leo Follen some years before.

Prior to Mr. Follen's sole proprietorship he had operated as a partnership with the late John E. Rush and Fred W. Schneider and operated at the same location for many years, beginning just after the turn of the century.

Those employed by Mr. Conner at this time are Elv Martin, Darlene Jellings, Marilyn Pavelka, Kevin K. Conner, Kristin Conner and Virginia House.

## ELSHEIMER MEAT PRODUCTS, INC.

The history of Elsheimer Meat Products, Inc., dates back to 1937 when C. H. "Butch" Elsheimer began to make sausage in a building behind his grocery store.

Mr. and Mrs. Elsheimer and their four daughters had moved to West Union three years earlier, purchasing a grocery store at the location presently occupied by The Village Flower and Gift Shop. In 1937, Mr. Elsheimer started to make his own sausage, a special coarse ground ring bologna and a summer sausage now known as Slo Hikry Smok. Mrs. Elshimer was also active in the business from its beginning here, taking an equal part with her husband in the grocery store and in the rapidly expanding sausage business.

Having sold the grocery store to Leonard Fencl and Ed Malek in 1944, Mr. Elsheimer bought a building across the alley to the east from the late Col. Fred Smith and moved into it. This was the nucleus of the present Elsheimer plant, which has grown to encompass about a sixth of a block at this location.

In 1948, the Elsheimers built an abattoir, killing and boning plant, on the southeast edge of West Union. This building, like the main plant in town, has been enlarged several times to keep pace with the firm's growth. The same year the firm was incorporated with Mr. Elsheimer as president and Mrs. Elsheimer as vice-president. Mr. Elsheimer died in 1955 following a heart attack.

In 1961, Mrs. Elsheimer sold her controlling interest

# Bemiss Distributing Co.

# Conner Rexall Drugs

Harold K. Conner, Owner



the company to her daughters and sons-in-law. The firm operates in a territory which extends to the Mississippi river in the east, to Iowa City in the south, to near Lake and Northwood in the west and to the Minnesota line in the north. Elsheimer Meat Products Co., served some 700 retail stores in this area with 40 sausage products and a complete line of fresh meats with the exception of mutton.

The plant employed about 30 to make, package and sell the Elsheimer products which still feature that same old coarse ground bologna and Slo-Hikry Smoked Summer sausage.

It changed hands February 1971 when it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Robinson, who bought the entire stock of the corporation from the former owners Clarence Bierman and Ted Doscher.

Immediate remodeling to meet Federal specifications for U.S.D.A. inspection began and on May 1973, they were issued a federal grant. Now operating under this grant made it possible to operate across state lines. However, as of December, 1973, they found it necessary to discontinue.

October 1972, Elsheimers leased their slaughter house to Corn Blossom Foods of Independence. John H. Sullivan who resides here was made general manager in March 1973 of the plant.

#### GERMAN MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

Four good friends of the Eldorado area were visiting together one day in 1877 when they decided that an insurance association should be organized for that area. The conversation involved Rev. G. Blessin, pastor of St. Peter's at Eldorado; Fred Schack, a retired New York businessman; William Poeting Eldorado storekeeper, and Phillip Lauer, farmer from near Festina.

At the first meeting held a few days later, plans of an organization and bylaws were agreed upon. For many years all those who joined the association had to sign their acceptance of these by-laws.

The original name was Duelschein Gregenseitigen Neuer Versicherungs Gesellschaft von Eldorado, Iowa German Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Eldorado, Iowa).

For many years the association only accepted Germans as members. All policies were written in the German language, and all business was conducted in German. At the annual meeting in 1913 this rule was changed, and all business was changed to English. Anyone whose property could be accepted was eligible.

At their first meeting the board adopted the Standard Iowa Policy, and since 1951 the German Mutual has been operating under the Standard Iowa Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Standard Iowa Policy.

The Lauer name connected with German Mutual is well known as present Secretary Manager, Gordon A. Lauer is the 5th generation to serve German Mutual as Secretary Manager. First to serve was Phillip Lauer, his

son, Henry Lauer, was followed by Henry's son, Grant Lauer, then followed by Grant's son, Arnold Lauer, and then followed by Arnold's son, Gordon Lauer, who at present time is Secretary manager. Present office staff includes Mrs. Arnold Lauer, Mrs. Gordon Lauer and Virgil Pratt, claims adjuster.

Since the organization of the association, it was always the custom that the secretary have the office in his home. For this reason the office was moved at least seven times to a different location. As the association grew it became necessary to build a home of its own. In 1958, the present home office building in West Union was purchased.

Reports at the first annual meeting recorded 75 policyholders, and \$164,363.00 of insurance in force. Today, German Mutual, has over \$127 million in force, and over 3000 policyholders located in the nine northeast Iowa counties, making it one of the largest county mutuals in Iowa.

German Mutual served the community and surrounding counties for 97 years. As a friend with each individual always in mind and using the slogan: if it's worth the labor, it's worth protecting.



KLEEN MAID BAKERY truck at relay station, 128 Franklin street.

#### ALSTADT & LANGLAS BAKING CO. KLEEN MAID BAKERY

In the mid-thirties, the property at 128 Franklin Street, West Union, Iowa, was a "Dine and Dance," owned by Gerald Pixler. This property was purchased by Alstadt and Langlas Baking Company of Waterloo, Ia., to be used as a relay station. After extensive remodeling of the building, four routes began operating in November 1937. The original route salesmen were Roy Wills, Merle Epperson, Al Huegli and Irv Huegli.

In 1964, Butt'r Topp Bakery at Clear Lake, Iowa purchased Alstadt & Langlas Baking Company in Waterloo plus all relay stations.

At the present time, there are five routes out of this relay station. The route salesmen are Gary Alber, Robert Flaskerud, Ronald Schuler, Roger Frederick, and Mike Berns. Jerry Hutchens is supervisor of the relay station, and Lester Guyer is the inside help. All the bakery products are trucked in daily from Waterloo and Clear Lake by a semi driven by Harry Watt, Waterloo, Iowa.

## German Mutual Ins. Assn.

## Long Branch, formerly Loftus





**BIG GAIN FEED** employees in 1948 — Charles Halverson, proprietor; left to right, seated: Milton Eide, Leonard Peterson, Laverne Rose, Bob Scholl, Howard Whitney, Ivan Reynolds and Clyde Cook. Standing: E. B.

McKenzie, Bill Price, Voyle Potter, Fred W. Baumbach and Fran Young.

### BIG GAIN FEEDS

Big Gain Products, a major producer of dollar business for West Union, began as a sideline for Charles Halverson in 1932. As a cattle buyer, he was not content with animal feeds on the market so Mr. Halverson came up with a mixture of his own. The feed was mixed evenings at Jack Healey's Mill, some of it actually being stirred with a hoe in a mortar box by Mr. Halverson and his brother, Elmer.

Selling it was no problem, if Mr. Halverson could just get the farmer to try it. He developed several different methods of doing this. One of the most effective was to toss a little feed into the wind so that it would drift down on the cattle. Soon the cattle would be licking each other to get the minerals in the feed and he would soon have a sale.

The business developed to where it could not longer be a sideline, and it demanded all of Mr. Halverson's attention. He leased the building at 125 South Vine Street and installed the first of many power mixers he was to use to produce thousands of tons of feed.

The business grew and in 1941 he purchased the old Milwaukee depot on the flat and used it as an office, and on the east erected a warehouse. In 1944, again outgrowing his quarters, he moved the business to the building which is now the school bus barn.

In 1946, the present building on South Vine street, adjoining the Rock Island tracks, was erected and the company moved in on July 10 of that year.

Through the years Mr. Halverson increased the number and kinds of feed he manufactured and also jobbed many related items through an ever-increasing number of dealers.

Present owners of the business are Jack and Mardelle (Halverson) Schatz.

### LOFTUS RESTAURANT

Loftus Restaurant has always had the slogan "All The Time Since 1909" and to this was added "With Time Out to Fix in '46."

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Loftus, parents of the past owner, started the restaurant on Jan. 15, 1909. Then on April 1, 1927, Francis Loftus assumed ownership.

A disasterous fire on Nov. 12, 1945, destroyed the interior of the building. According to Mr. Loftus the fire started in the basement, probably from the furnace. Paper supplies stored in the basement burst into flames.

When the waitresses upstairs began to smell smoke the customers were rushed out of the restaurant. The floor of the restaurant collapsed and the heavy soda fountain bar crashed to the basement.

Because of the war, building materials were hard to

# Big Gain Products



ain in 1945. Therefore, it took about three and one-half months to rebuild the restaurant.

Since the time of the fire when all new equipment installed, there has been some remodeling in Loftus restaurant. The addition of a new front on the restaurant was installed in 1963.

On Dec. 1, 1971, Marietta Szemkus became the new proprietor Francis Loftus retiring. Then in the fall of this business was taken over by Mary Brause.

### HUMPHRY CAFE

The scenes of Unionland have changed considerably since Humphry Dairy had its humble beginning in 1920 on back porch of C. W. Humphry, who was supplying milk to customers from his own dairy herd.

The next step came when the Humphrys expanded their business, moving into a little brick building which had formerly been a gas station. The canopy in front was closed to make a retail room, and there they continued to sell raw milk, and purchased ice cream to sell. In the late 1930's they began selling pasteurized milk.

When the Kenneth Freys came to manage the business in 1939, there were just three farmers supplying milk for the dairy. Mr. Frey recalls that he and his wife came to town in a 1932 DeSoto car with just \$300 in his pocket. They made a \$50 down payment on the dairy business and traded their car in as a down payment on a new truck.

Then the changes began in earnest. In 1942, a retail grocery store and ice cream parlor were constructed. That is part of the Humphry Cafe today.

Five years later, in 1947, the original brick building was razed and a new building was constructed in its place. Since then an addition was made on the south side to house a boiler room.

Like Topsy, the business "grewed and growed" and more space became necessary. Offices were moved to a newly-constructed second floor in 1964, and the area formerly used by office personnel and equipment was converted into a party room.

Spectacular changes in the business, other than its continued growth and expansion probably occurred in 1966 when Humphry Dairy converted from wholesale to retail operations. Where in the past, the business was mostly with grocery stores, from 85 to 90 percent was soon being done by home delivery trucks.

Service by 1965 offered Humphry Dairy products through Drive 'N Shops located at Oelwein, Independence, Waverly, Denver and Postville. That year a Humphry Dairy Superette was opened at Decorah, with a small line of groceries being sold along with cones and soft drinks.

One of the favorite innovations of the Humphry dairy years was the "Cow in the Kitchen," which was featured in an issue of Time magazine in 1962. The "Cow in the Kitchen" was a home milk dispenser which enabled the customer to obtain a week's supply of milk in one delivery. Approximately 400 were in use in Unionland.

The mushrooming business in turn called for more help so the Freys sent out ten delivery trucks and employed approximately 50 people in the operation of their dairy, business office and restaurant.

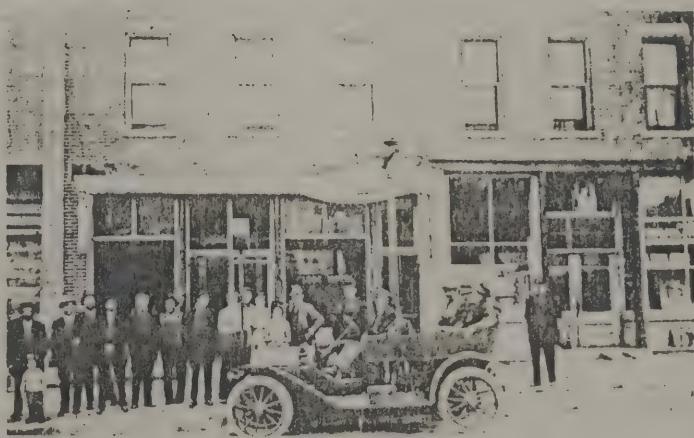
On Jan. 1, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Frey sold their prosperous business to Schwan's of Marshall, Minn. That company rented the buildings, moved in and took over operation of the dairy.

The Freys needed still more room for their popular dining accommodations and later that same year, 1968, built the Rainbow room where they now serve Sunday smorgasbords and cater to many parties, meetings, wedding receptions, large and small groups.

Ever alert to the needs of the community, Mr. and Mrs. Frey started Frey's Mobile Home Sales to help meet the housing needs of the growing city. A year later, in 1970, they opened the first addition of Frey's Mobile Home Park of 17 lots. The next year, the sales lot was enlarged by tearing down and moving three homes from the hill north of the cafe and leveling the slope, all of which helped to beautify the junction of highways 18 and 150.

By 1972, the Mobile Home park was filled to capacity.

### THE GLOBE HOTEL



GLOBE HOTEL in 1912.

### NORTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Early records indicate that West Union's first telephone was located in the post office in 1882. It was connected by a single wire line to another telephone in the post office at Fayette. The same reports indicate that a year later a "switch box" had been installed at the post office and telephones in a dozen subscribers' homes could be connected to the line.

A news article from the "West Union Argosy" of Nov. 11, 1885, describes the building of a line between Brush Creek and Strawberry Point that would make it possible to talk as far east as Dubuque and as far west as New Hampton. It tells of the selling of coupons that could be

# Frey's Mobile Home Sales





FIRST TELEPHONE BUILDING, 1909, on South Vine. Pictured are Mrs. Fred Johnson and Mrs. Henry L. Hjelmeng.

used for calls, a common method of financing construction in those days.

During a part of the early growth, two or more telephone systems operated here, each serving a portion of the area and competing for customers. Telephone switchboards were replaced frequently and the office moved from one location to another.

By 1914, the services were consolidated and a new switchboard with all the modern features then available was installed on the second floor of a two story brick building on Vine Street.

In 1940, a one story frame and brick veneer building was constructed at 108 Adams Street. The old hand crank telephone system was replaced with the latest innovations in operator service — life the receiver to signal the operator on both town and rural telephones.

Another great stride in service for West Union came in 1956 when the nationwide network of stormproof long distance lines reached here. Another came in 1951 with the completion of an automatic long distance switching center for northeast Iowa. In 1962, an addition was added to the telephone office to house local dial equipment and direct distance dial equipment. This equipment was put in service Dec. 1, 1962, and was available to all West Union subscribers.

Since the first telephone was installed 91 years ago, many changes have taken place. Growth has continued until today there are 2,320 telephones in West Union.

#### GRAHAM'S

Graham's Department Store has always been in the same familiar place in West Union, at 110 East Elm Street, since its opening in 1920. Some years ago, the building was enlarged by an addition to the rear, and the front was remodeled.

Graham's is one of a chain of 22 stores, and lists among its merchandise such items as ladies' and children's ready-to-wear, gift items, home furnishings, housewares, piece goods, shoes and accessories. When

the store first opened in 1920, it specialized in ready-to-wear and dry goods, under the management of G. E. Inlow. In the 53 years since then, Graham's has employed 15 managers. Today its manager is Gregor Geerde, and the other employees are Mrs. Gertrude Hanson, Mrs. Erna Hilsenbeck, Mrs. Ethel Wilbur, Mrs. LeAnne Ruroden and Miss Judy Miller.



ANNA QUAMME, long-time employee of a Graham's store.

In 1971, Graham's longest-term employee, Miss Anna Quamme, retired after 50 years of service, having worked for the local store since its second year of business in 1921. Miss Quamme served faithfully as bookkeeper and saleslady. She has a record of more years of service than any woman who has ever worked for the Graham's chain.

#### MILLER VAULT CO.

When Miller Vault was started in 1941 vaults were trucked in for three years from Luana, Iowa. Later vaults were started being made in the Hermann Roggensack Building (now part of the fire station). Then they were made in a building on Vine street. This building was rented from Mrs. Theobald in 1942. It is the building where the Reliable Agency is now.

Then land was bought in 1943 on North Pine Street and along Highway 18 from Bert Hanson. On this corner the present factory was built by the present proprietors themselves with cement blocks made by them.

A fire in March of 1968 took the top apartment and the place where the vaults were stored after they were made. Much equipment and one truck was destroyed. After the fire in 1968 the walls were lowered and a roof put on the building. This rebuilding allowed the firm to continue in business again.

# Grahams Dept. Store



### JOHN E. RUSH DRUGS

The building occupied by John E. Rush Drug Store in West Union is described in the 1910 edition of The Fayette County History as "Phoenix-like, the handsomest building in West Union."

From very early days to 1875, a frame building stood at the corner of South Vine and West Elm streets. It was occupied by C. T. Nefzger and others as a store building until it went up in smoke in 1875.

Dr. G. D. Darnall ordered construction of the new brick two-story building, which stands at present. The upper floor was utilized as Dr. Darnall's office.



R. G. D. DARNALL, original owner of building of John Rush Drug, corner of South Vine and West Elm street.

Downstairs was built and arranged as a drugstore. Additional shop space was also available in the basement with stairway entrances from the sidewalk on Elm street. A basement level underground sidewalk provided entrance from both the Elm street and Vine Street sides of the building. The Argo Gazette utilized this space for a period of time.

P. D. Scofield was the first proprietor of the store, Darnall and Fisher succeeded him, the firm being Dr. G. Darnall, his cousin, Dr. C. F. Darnall and Lewis A.

Fischer, a grocer in town. Following Darnall & Fischer in succession were McMartin & Stile, McMartin, Tisdale and Barnes, W. H. Tisdale and John E. Rush. Since September, 1965, John Havener has been proprietor.

An interesting item in a 1905 copy of The Union was this: "Colgate's Cashmere Couquet has the largest sale of any superfine toilet soap in the world. W. H. Tisdale and Company are giving away a cake with each purchase of Colgate's Dental Powder at the New Union Drug area is part of the Humphry Cafe today.

Old-timers can remember Dr. Darnall pitching pennies from the upper story of the building to kids on the street at Christmas time.

In early days, a "talking tube" ran from the physician's office to the drugstore below. Dr. Darnall would give prescription orders via this convenience, but due to his loud temperament many felt the "talking tube" was quite unnecessary, since his voice carried well throughout the building.

James Benson, a nephew of W. H. Tisdale, is the present owner of the building.

### KARBAN'S Five to Dollar Store

The Bockenstedt building, where Karban's Five to Dollar Store is now located, is one of the oldest buildings in West Union.

The building has housed a dime store only since 1947



Karban's Five to Dollar Store, 101 W. Vine Street.

when Norm Tegen, Independence, opened a business there. However, he never ran the business himself but had Glen Lorenz and Roger Carlson run it for him.

Clarence Karban bought the business from Mr. Tegen in 1954 and the building from Mr. Bockenstedt in 1964.

Before 1947 the building housed many and varied

# John E. Rush Drugs

John W. Havener, Owner



businesses. C. W. Dykins had an abstract office upstairs about 60 years ago. J. W. Dwyer's real estate office was located on the upper floor for a time too. In those days an outside staircase led to the upper offices.

Kamm Insurance Company was located on the ground floor in the 1940's while a barber shop, a tailor, the post office both occupied the ground floor for a time established in the basement. A men's clothing store and the post office both occupied the ground floor for a time.

A bank, which was started in the '20's by two local lawyers named Clements, lasted only a short time and was one of the banks which closed during the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mr. Karban removed the ground floor bank vault but the basement vault still remains.

According to some of the old-timers in West Union the back rear part of the basement of the Bockenstedt building was also a party room for a time.

In the basement today, one corner which extends out into the room has been chiseled out in a fashion similar to scooping ice cream. Rumor has it the corner was in the way of pool players' cues so they simply chiseled it away and plastered over the area. New metal siding has been applied to the building which improved the appearance considerably.

Vivian Mueller and Irma Osmundson are presently employed here.

#### WILSON'S FEED & SUPPLY

Wilson's Feed and Supply was started in January 1952 in the Old Mill on Highway 18, now occupied by Darold Martin. The business was bought from William McCauley and the building rented from him. George Weist was employed since he was a miller and was a big help.

In February of 1957 the business moved to the present location. The mill was built on land purchased from George Drewes. The mill was built by Baumler Brothers from home-sawed lumber. Expansions with the following additions were made: Bulk Concentrate bins, corn dryer and two bins, eight more bins installed, second dryer. This year plans have been made to have a new elevator leg installed.

Employees at this time are Lloyd Wiedow, full time; a truck driver, L. A. Cannon, half-time, and Bill Wilson, summer months. For the past five years employment has been given student trainees from North High school under the DE program. These are as follows: Rodney Wagner, Earl Moss, Dennis Burington, Ray Graf and Darwin Polk.

#### H & H DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

From a humble beginning by Don E. Hansen and his brother-in-law, Marvin E. Hofer, using Mr. Hansen's basement as the original warehouse, H & H has today grown to include the main office in West Union and plants in Clear Lake and Dubuque and Waterloo.

Hofer left after a year to accept a civil service job.

Noel Brockway of Waucoma, and Tony Frank Harpers Ferry joined the firm as salesmen in 1946. manager of Alstadt and Langlas Baking Company employee for 11 years, Mr. Hansen resigned from appointment to work full with the young firm that showing signs of growth.



MR. AND MRS. DON HANSEN

The original panel truck advertising ABC Chips soon was outgrown. Cookies and candies became a part of the inventory. This necessitated moving to larger quarters. In 1947, the Lee Granger Mill shop building on Linde Street was purchased.

It was at this time that Floyd Nading of Randolph joined the firm as a deliveryman and salesman began advance selling with delivery following daily. Mr. Nading is still with the firm after being employed a salesman, as top salesman many years, to now inventor man with 26 years devoted to the firm. Before the year was out, Pete Anderson of Elgin became a partner acting as salesman and warehouse man. Mr. Hansen became a full-time salesman.

The company already ten years old was outgrowing its premises and sought out other rental facilities. The need for a larger warehouse was evident. A new modern structure was erected on Vine Street. Two modern offices, a special humidified room for tobaccos and cigars as these products were now a main line with the firm which is a direct distributor for every tobacco firm of the United States.

Refrigeration units were installed for cheese and walk-in cooler for margarines. A garage with a dock fa-



ding from the direct order assembly conveyor, an  
inal idea with Mr. Hansen, was included in this new  
ding.

In 1959, the Raney Garage was purchased for more  
ded space. It was remodeled to store and service  
cks, with the lower level for warehousing. The  
eden building just south of the main warehouse was  
chased in 1967 for more needed space. Two years  
er the small home between the two warehouses was  
chased which was removed from this premise and a  
50x60x24 deepfreeze was built in 1970. This made a  
plete uniting of the other buildings making a front of  
feet. Present floor space is 40,000 square feet.



DON HANSEN and his first partner, Marvin Hofer.

Today fork-lift trucks move goods from freight cars,  
mis or tractor trailers at loading docks to tall  
litzed stacks. Various rooms provide specialized  
perature and humidity requirements. Having gone  
to the fresh products business the past year, a humidity  
trolled refrigerated room measuring 80x60x10 stores  
sh vegetables and fruits. The making of fresh salads  
d relishes has necessitated a kitchen in the south  
tion of the building, with a complete walk-in cooler,  
getable parer, slicer, chopper, grater, a complete  
art salad preparatory unit.

The Clear Lake branch office and warehouse was  
ganized in 1956. Today it employs seven people.  
ebbins Wholesale and Reliable Institutional Foods in  
ubique, were purchases in July, 1966. A warehouse and  
ice is located on Iowa Street in downtown Dubuque.  
ese two branches were incorporated in March 1969.  
Roach is manager of the West Union office being with  
H Distributing Co. since 1957. There are at present 39  
ployees at the West Union warehouse, of whom seven  
salesmen. As of December 1972, H D & D Foods of  
terloo has been absorbed by this growing firm. A 21  
tandem is operating a freight line between Chicago  
th improvement on pickup to bring the freshest  
getables and fruits possible to H & H's customers.  
Having had their private label, CHEF BEST, since

1956, ten years later H & H Distributing Company was  
chosen as the only distributor in North and Eastern Iowa  
to distribute the NIFDA label, a National Institutional  
Food Distributors Association, packing and distributing  
choice and fancy foods. It was at this time Heinz  
Manufacturing Co. honored H & H as its largest  
distributor in Iowa.

H & H now has 18 trucks, seven fitted with thermo  
kings and five 20-foot tandems servicing H & H's several  
thousand customers weekly. Three Econolines serve  
small, quick deliveries.

Mr. Hansen believes one must change with the  
times. It is with this idea that a new IBM Systems 3  
computer was installed in early 1972. New office space  
has been made available to accommodate same. Five  
keypunchers and a programmer see to its operation day  
and night.

#### BAUMLER FARM SUPPLY

The building was built in 1939 by Gib Hanson. The  
fall of 1943 John Kiple started an Allis Chalmers Agency.  
It was sold to Fred Baade in 1950 and at that time was  
renamed Farmers' Implement.

Baade sold the business to Wilbur Ford in 1956. In  
1960 Wilbur Ford sold the business back to Fred Baade.  
In 1962, it was bought by Melvin and Reynold Baumler  
and became Baumler Farm Supply, selling Allis  
Chalmers, New Holland, Gehl and some short lines. In  
1966, Melvin Baumler took over the entire business.

The present employees are Clifford Roulson,  
Leonard Franzen, Myron Guritz, Vernon Schmitz, Melvin  
Loftsgard and Ernest Schwinefus, all in the employ as  
mechanics. Robert Corkery is employed as salesman,  
and Arleta Schaller is employed as bookkeeper.

#### MARTIN SIGN SERVICE

and

#### OLD MILL ANTIQUE SHOP AND BOTTLE MUSEUM

Martin Sign Service has been a great contribution to  
our community and more important, Darold Martin is  
one of the few left with this talent. The first commercial  
signs he painted were the advertising of the Apple  
Orchard and Green Mill Cabins in 1936. To begin with it  
was started just as a hobby and continued as such until  
1944 when it became a full time business. At this time  
there were three other sign painters in West Union and  
like many other occupations it has become a lost art.

Last year he started another hobby, the Old Mill  
Antique Shop and Bottle Museum (with the sign shop  
located in the basement.) The building was originally a  
grist mill doing business for many many years and  
eventually became a well worn structure so it is now an  
attractive addition with its new face lift.

Much of his time now is devoted to art work such as  
black walnut paintings, decorating trunks, kegs, etc.,  
which are sold throughout the United States.

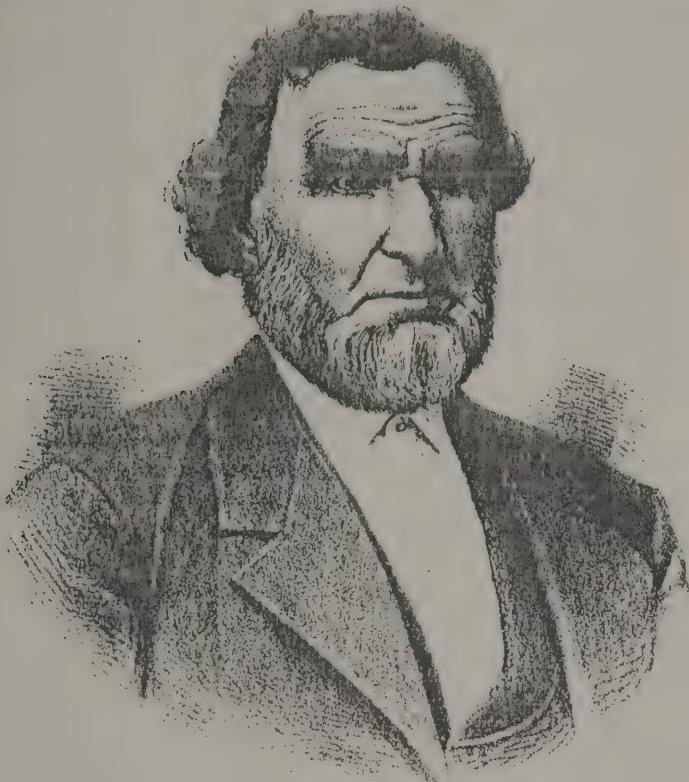
# Baumler Farm Supply



## THE UNION

West Union's outstanding weekly newspaper, The Union, proper title, The Fayette County Union and West Union Argo-Gazette, is the lineal descendant of three newspapers.

The Fayette County Union was first published Jan. 4, 1866, by William McClintock and H. Rickel. The Republican Gazette and Clermont Leader, later the West Union Gazette, was started in September, 1881, by Frank and L. T. Hobson. All three are now consolidated in The Union.



W. McClintock, founding editor of Fayette County Union.

Present publishers of the paper are R. M. Westerfield and Gerald H. Blue. The Westerfield interest dates back to June 1, 1937, when he, his father, the late C. M. Westerfield, and Thomas B. Powell purchased the Fayette County Union from Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McIlree. During World War II this partnership purchased the West Union Argo-Gazette from Mrs. Blanche Beall, widow of the late Walter Beall, who had edited it for many years after consolidating the Argo with the West Union Gazette in 1910.

Mr. Powell continued with the Fayette County Union only until 1939, at which time the partners purchased a newspaper in Anamosa and he moved there to operate it.

C. M. Westerfield operated the paper for three years during World War II, while R. M. Westerfield was on active duty with the U.S. Navy. Upon his return from service, R. M. Westerfield re-assumed the duties of editor, a post he continues to hold.

Mr. Blue, who joined The Union as an advertising salesman in 1963, purchased a fractional interest in the paper in 1968 and in 1972 became a co-publisher with Mr. Westerfield.

Under its present publishers the paper has consistently earned recognition for its quality. Its most



Walter Beall, editor of Argo-Gazette.



R. M. Westerfield, editor of the Union.



Jerry Blue, co-publisher of the Union.



cent award was for first place in General Excellence in state-wide contest conducted by the Iowa Press Association in 1973. It won its first such award in 1938. Throughout this 35-year span it has been a consistent winner of state and national awards.

Mr. Westerfield and Mr. Blue were leaders in the organization of a printing firm, Graphics, Inc., at Salmar, which since 1969 has printed The Union, as well as 14 other northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota publications. Mr. Westerfield served as first president of the firm, continuing in that capacity from 1969 until 1971.

Officers of the paper have long been active in affairs of the Iowa Press Association, Mr. McClintock, the founder, being a regular attender of that organization's state meetings. Mr. Westerfield served as a member of the board of the association and as its president in 1968. He also was a member of the board of the National Newspaper Association and served as its president in 1970-71.

The Iowa Press Association honored him with its Master Editor and Publisher award in 1966 and the National Newspaper Association with its Amos award in 1972, each being the highest honors accorded by the association.

#### ROBINSON'S VARIETY STORE

Kenneth and Betty Robinson purchased the variety store business from Mr. Anderson, who had owned it since 1955. Mr. Anderson had purchased the business from H. B. Hurd, who had been the first to open a variety store in this building.

For many years before the variety store, Earl Brown and Don Klinkel had a men's clothing store in the location. At that time, the building was owned by Will Thomas. At the time of Mr. Thomas' death, Robert Estey inherited the building and it is now owned by Mary Estey.

The third floor of this building at one time was the Lodge Hall.

#### GATES MOTOR SUPPLY

The Gates Motor Supply which is now located in the Odd Fellows Lodge building dates back to the thirties.

Tony Hausladen came from Lawler in 1933 and started an auto repair, parts and equipment business in the Pat Beamer building which later became the property of the late Armand Brooks and now houses the Fulligan Soft Water Service. In 1938, they moved to what is known as the Ford Sales Service. 1949 found them doing business in the building now occupied by Dr. Walsh.

Anfinson and Summers bought the business in November of 1951 and used the name of West Union Auto Parts. They continued doing business in this location and in 1964 sold it to Gates Motor Supply of Independence.

Gates Motor Supply was given its present name just

ten years ago. Today it still deals in automotive parts and is managed by Jack Cline. The other personnel include Lila Summers, Wayne Larson and David Broughton.

#### BARREL DRIVE-IN

The property for the Barrel Drive-In was purchased from Raymond Mishler in 1965 by Edward R. Kotz, sr., Clear Lake, Iowa. Construction of the building began in the fall of 1965 and neared completion in the spring of 1966. Mr. Kotz and his son, Ed, jr., did most of the construction themselves.

On the 21st of April, 1966, the Barrel opened for business under the management of Ed Kotz, jr., and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Boehnke, Clear Lake. Ed and his grandparents managed the drive-in until 1970 when Ed entered the army. In 1970 and 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Boehnke and Lynn Kelck from Mason City managed the Barrel. Upon Ed's return from the Army in the spring of 1972 his grandparents retired and Ed and Lynn managed the business. On Jan. 1, 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Kelck, West Union, took over the business.

The Barrel employs on the average of 20 area girls each year. In the past it has employed 65 West Union girls and many more from Hawkeye, Elgin, Alpha, Waucoma, Fayette, Sumner, Clermont and Eldorado.

The Barrel Drive-In, West Union, is one of three such drive-ins built by Mr. Kotz in Iowa, the others being in Clear Lake and Cherokee.

#### SEARS

The building housing the Sears Store was owned by Dr. Robinson in the 1800's. Dr. Robinson had his office upstairs and Everett Phillips had a drug store downstairs. There also was a barber shop in the front of the basement about this time.

The next druggist in the store was McLaughlin, followed by Fitzgerald, the building having been purchased by R. O. Woodard.

Following the drug store, C. C. Brink had his racket store in this building. When he moved to a new location Elmer Smith started a hardware store. The building was purchased in 1927 by W. K. Humphry and was managed by his son, Ralph. Ralph Humphry continued in business until 1963, and during that time had bought the building from his father.

Following Mr. Humphry's retirement from the hardware business, it was rented by Thatcher and run as Gamble's Store for several years.

In 1970, Oliver Fay started the Sears Store in this building and the next year sold the business to Ronald Crandall. In 1972, Bruce Crandall purchased the building from Ralph Humphry.

**Gates Motor Supply Co.**

**Robinson's Variety**





ORVILLE SABOE and his radio shop in 1935 at back of Coast to Coast.

### SABOE JEWELRY & ELECTRONICS

Orville Saboe began his career in electronics in 1929 by taking an electrical and radio course by correspondence while still in high school.

During high school he worked summers and holidays for Anfinson and Raney Garage in West Union. After graduation from high school in 1932, when jobs were scarce, he was one of the very few from his class to have a job waiting for him. He rebuilt batteries, generators, did garage work, and the beginning of the car radio age, which he sold and repaired.

Mr. Saboe started a radio repair shop in his own home in 1935. He moved his shop to the rear of the Coast to Coast Store late that year in West Union. He was associated with the Coast to Coast Store for seven years as a radio technician.

In 1934, Mr. Saboe took a correspondence course in television from the Hollywood Institute of Technology. In the early part of 1942 he joined the Specialist Corps of the Army as a Senior Radio Technician. He received more extensive training in radar and electronics in the east for 10 months. From there he was sent to the Oklahoma City Technical Service Command, the world's largest such unit, serving as a senior radio technician and foreman of the radio instrument radar and timing unit repair section. He served here for three years during the war. During this time in Oklahoma City, Mr. Saboe, who had always been interested in watchmaking as a hobby, became associated with Charles R. Jacobs, Oklahoma City Jeweler and watchmaker. In his spare time he learned the watchmaker's trade.

After the war in 1945, Mr. Saboe came back to West Union and started a radio and jewelry store in the building that is now the south part of the Fayette County Union office. In addition to selling radios, watches and jewelry, he had a completely equipped and manned radio repair department. Assisting in this department was his cousin, Marvin Saboe, who had ten months of training in

radio with the army. He spent 18 months with his unit Germany in the signal corps. Mr. Saboe also had completely equipped watch repairing department to take over the work he had been doing in his home. He introduced the new FM method of radio receiving to the area in 1945.

Personnel working were Marvin Saboe, 1946-47, Mrs. Betty Loftsgard, 1947-49, Mrs. Ruth Anderson, 1949, Clifford Saboe, 1947-49.

In 1948, Mr. Saboe purchased his first black and white television receiver, no doubt the first one in Fayette county. The 75 feet high tower received stations from Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Ames. However, the weather conditions had to be perfect to receive any picture. Mr. Saboe said sometimes he couldn't get a picture for weeks, and then at other times one could watch a picture for a couple of hours before it would fade away.

In 1949, Mr. Saboe moved his business to its present location on South Vine. He purchased the building and inventory from Oscar Heiserman who had operated a store for 54 years prior to his retirement. Personnel working were Thelma Brekke 1950, Lida Barker 1951, Darlene Drewes 1951-1953, Richard Balliu, 1952, Sharon Heyer 1952-1955, Delphine Oldenberg 1953, Alida Kjos 1953-1955, Dale Ishman 1954-1960, Bob Jones 1949-1951.

In 1956, Mr. Saboe took a course in color television from Iowa State University Extension Service. He introduced and displayed color television at the Fayette County Fair in 1955. The cost of a set at that time was \$995 for 15-minutes a day showing time.

Personnel working now are Mr. Saboe and his wife, Ione, who operate the store together. Their two daughters, Beverly and Sharon, and two sons, Ronald and Gerald, helped work at the store during their high school days, holidays and vacations.

### GRUVER SHOE STORE

Fred Gruver established a shoe store in 1913 in quarters which now house Eileen's Flower Shop, doing harness repairs and selling shoes.

After a short time, the harness repair business dropped and shoe repairing took its place.

In 1921, Mr. Gruver purchased the first building north of the Woodard building and moved into it. This is where the store is still located today.

During the early years of the business, Mr. Gruver was assisted by his wife, Frieda, and then in later years by his two sons, Francis and Harold.

Mr. Gruver took a partner, H. F. Jacobs, in 1934. Until the partnership was dissolved in 1936, the firm was known as Gruver and Jacobs.

The business continued with Mr. Gruver and his son, Harold, in charge. In 1941, Mr. Gruver became ill and Harold assumed operation of the business. The 50th anniversary of the business was celebrated in 1965.

## Gruver's Shoe Store

## Saboe Jewelry and TV



## HISTORY OF SCHWAN'S DAIRY

January 1, 1969, Schwan's purchased Humphry Dairy from Kenneth Frey and was under the management of Alfred Schwan, who was later transferred to Salina, Kan. At that time there were 27 people employed. Milk was processed in the plant and also their own ice cream was made. Shortly after the change in ownership the milk processing and the making of ice cream here was discontinued. Schwan's own ice cream and other products were shipped in from their main plant in Marshall, Minn. Milk now comes from Carnation out of Waterloo.

In October of 1969, Schwan's purchased a sandwich operation from Dubuque, Iowa, called Todd Foods and transferred it to the plant in West Union, which is being managed by Gus Dewitz. He started with eight employees on the line. Out of this eight, four are still employed here, Hazel Dewitz, Virginia Burrows, Gladys Nelson and Arlene Sutter. At the present time the number of employees has increased to 75 and is still growing. Schwan's sandwiches are now known as Tony's Sandwiches and are spreading throughout the United States.

As of now Schwan's Dairy has 10 retail routemen, Jim Nutting, Roger Holthaus, Tom Osborn, Tom Bushman, Dick Woodson, Ken Mittelstadt, Butch Tessmer, Howard Platte, Merle Thuente and Marlin Weyant. These men are managed by Leonard Larson, jr. There are also two loaders and three office personnel.

Tony's Pizza depot is also located here in West Union. There are two wholesale route salesmen operating out of this depot, Orlan Sievert and Don Berry. Their main plant is located at Salina, Kan.

## WEST UNION COOPERATIVE COMPANY

The West Union Cooperative Company can boast more partners than any other business in town.

The Co-op was purchased by about 25 people for \$10 per share. The former owner was Dan O'Halloran who operated in livestock sales and feed grinding.

The original constitution stated that the business of the company was to be "buying, selling and dealing in all kinds of farm products, including horses, cattle, sheep, swine, grain, eggs, poultry, coal, salt and feed."

The first officers of the company were A. H. Kent, president; J. J. Crowe, vice-president; L. S. Cooley, secretary, and H. George, treasurer. Directors were J. J. Durscher, F. L. Bunton, C. W. Humphry, John Schatz, Martin Fels and H. A. Kent.

In 1946, the company was reorganized. Preferred stock at \$5 per share was offered. One could own as many shares as he wished. A customer could also buy one share of common stock at \$25 per share. While there was no interest on the common stock, it entitled the shareholder to a vote in all elections.

At the time of reorganization the name of the

company was changed from the West Union Commission Company to West Union Cooperative Company. Ross Whitcher, manager at that time, suggested the new name.

Other managers who have served the Co-op are Art Jenkins, Harry Keig, Roy Chamberlain, Harry Cline, Ron Moon, Bud Schaa and Warren Sauerbrei.

In 1959 the high tower which bears the name of the company was built behind and just west of the original elevator. Offices were moved into what had been the elevator building.

Robert Murrell was named manager of the cooperative in October of 1972. Officers at the present time are Carl A. Wagner, president; Ralph Moellers, vice-president, and Jim Friederich, secretary. Kenneth Strong, Kenneth Meyer, Russell Mork, Ronald Grafenberg, Herb Vagts and Kent Nydegger are the directors.

The West Union Cooperative Company today deals in feed, seed, grain, hogs, fertilizer, fencing, feeders and petroleum. Feeds and concentrates are manufactured in the mill.

Personnel	Manager
Robert Murrell	Office Manager
Gary Snyder	Bookkeeper
Carleen Miller	Bookkeeper
Sanda Fleshner	Mill man
Harvey Schlitter	Bulk truck driver
Stan Shaffer	Grain dept.
Carl Patrick	Hog buyer
Vern Popenhagen	Fertilizer dept.
Eugene Lutteke	Trucker
Paul Bement	Petroleum
Jim Weber	Fertilizer dept.
Don Scott	Trucker
Mike Gibbs	

## DEAN'S STANDARD STATION

On the southeast corner of Main and Plum Streets the first building was Wetherbee's Machine Shop which was torn down in 1918. In 1922 a Standard Station was built on this location. Over a period of 30 years, it was leased to several different managers, Keith Smith, Clair Anderson who ran it for nine years; Earl Stannard, Earl Becker and Royal Smith.

In 1952, the building was purchased by Fred Ganske, rebuilt and opened for business in 1953 with Ferris Meyer managing it for eight years.

Myron Chapman took possession in 1961 and continued in business until 1972.

In 1973, the building was purchased by Walter Peyton and opened for business by Dean Peyton on March 1. Present employees include Larry Nefzger, Dennis McElree and Charles Eberhart.

# Schwan's Dairy, Inc.





BURNHAM WOOD FUNERAL HOME

Burnham and Wood Funeral Home

**BURNHAM—WOOD FUNERAL HOME**

The first building constructed strictly as a funeral home in West Union was built in 1966 by Gene Wood. Prior to that Philips & Philips, the Loomis Brothers, Schutte & Smothers, and Burnham & Hartman all had funeral homes in converted residences.

Mr. Wood began working in the funeral home for the late Wallace Burnham, while still attending West Union High School.

Following graduation from high school, military service and then graduation from funeral director's school in St. Louis, he rejoined the firm again working for Mr. Burnham.

Then in 1952, he purchased the funeral business from Mr. Burnham. At that time also, Mr. Burnham sold the old roller skating rink which housed his funeral home, to Holy Name Catholic church. Mr. Wood then purchased the original furniture and funeral home at 101 East Main.

Wallace Burnham was the son of the original founder of the funeral home, L. W. Burnham. L. W. Burnham and his partner, Mr. Hartman, had both a furniture store and a funeral home, doing the embalming in private homes during early years. Records of the funeral home date back to 1888.

When L. W. Burnham died in 1928, his sons, Clarence and Wallace, took over the business. Two years later the brothers dissolved partnership, at which time Clarence became sole owner of the furniture business until the early 1940's, but Wallace continued on in the funeral home until 1952 when he retired and moved to Sun City, Calif.

Mr. Wood's new funeral home is located at the corner

of Elm and Pine streets in West Union, and had its Grand Opening during June 1966.

**THE CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING  
SALES & SERVICE**

This business was established in the early forties in Oelwein, Iowa, serving Fayette county. In 1956, the business had expanded to the point where it became necessary to establish another regenerating plant in a newly franchised area. This was done in 1956 and was located in the Don Hansen building on Linden street.

In 1962 the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Easton, purchased the business which is now located at 211 South Vine Street and are now entering their 12th year as operators covering 12 townships in Fayette and Winneshiek counties.

**AMERICAN FINANCE CORPORATION**

Fayette County Loan Company had its beginning on Sept. 1, 1932, by Lawrence Bockenstedt and was operated by him until March 1, 1966. Interstate Finance Corporation of Dubuque, Iowa, purchased the office at that time.

On May 1, 1967, American Finance Corporation, Silver Spring, Maryland, purchased all Interstate Finance Corporation's offices. American Finance Systems, Incorporated, had its beginning in the bleakest year of 1930. The depression was just beginning the downward plunge, when a young married couple, David and Maurine Wier, operating with \$10,000 of borrowed capital decided to go into business for themselves. They started out as a one room office in a sleepy little town of Mount Rainier, Maryland, and has grown into a four-hundred million dollar financial giant, operating in 43 states and the Province of Canada, employing thousands of people.

Our West Union office has two employees: Mrs. M. (Eleanor) Wilson, manager, who has been with the company since May 1966, and Mrs. Kerwin (Marlys) Anderson, cashier, who started in June 1973.

**EILEEN'S GIFT AND FLOWER SHOP**

One of the four businesses occupying a place in the R. O. Woodard building in West Union is Eileen's.

Mrs. Eileen Foote bought the business from Bill Youngberg in 1964. She had the interior completely remodeled before opening for business. Mr. Youngberg started his business in the rear basement of the building where Karban's is now located. Before he occupied the

**Culligan Soft Water Service**

Howard Easton

**Burnham and Wood  
Funeral Home**

**Dean's Standard**

**American Finance**



Woodard building, Herb Schaefer and George Bemiss both had operated bakeries there.

Mrs. Foote worked alone the first year in business, then employed Mrs. Elsie Halverson and after a year and half, Mrs. Halverson retired. She then employed Mrs. Norbert Schuler, who has been with her the last seven years. As the business increased Mrs. Britt (June) Adair has been employed as extra help.

Mrs. Foote sells gifts, cards, plants, cut flowers and artificial flowers. She also makes corsages and arrangements for weddings, funerals and special occasions. The business uses the Teleflora wire service which enables it to receive and send out of town orders.

As this goes to press, this business has been sold to June Adair and is called Chalet Flowers and Gifts.

#### RELIABLE AGENCY

In August of 1948, a new Insurance and Real Estate business was formed in West Union by D. R. Peasley, now of Elkader, Iowa, and Balz Kamm, jr., the owner of the Reliable Agency. A year after formation by the partners, Mr. Kamm bought out Mr. Peasley's interest, and has been the sole owner-operator of the agency since



RELIABLE AGENCY

then. The agency specializes in real estate and all phases of insurance, with the exception of health and accident and hospitalization insurance. His present secretary, Miss Ann Hutchens, has been with the firm since December of 1955.

When the agency was first organized on Aug. 1, 1948, it did not have an office in which to headquartered. For about one month, it used the office of the Federal Land Bank, of which Mr. Peasley was the manager. Then, a small room in the late Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Olesen home was used, and after about a month there, an office became available at the rear of the Karban 5 & 10 store. The Reliable Agency headquartered there from November, 1948, until December, 1963. In September,

1963, Mr. Kamm and his wife, Shirley, purchased the building from Carroll Hemmingson, which at the time housed a TV-radio sales and service store, and cold storage lockers to the rear. Upstairs was a three-bedroom apartment.

After purchasing the building Mr. and Mrs. Kamm did extensive remodeling, and now the downstairs boasts a large front office - reception area, two private offices, and a storage-work area. The cold-locker area was cleaned out, and now provides storage and a garage.

When the agency was first formed, the total annual premiums on insurance amounted to about \$4,500. For the past several years, the agency has produced in excess of \$100,000 in premiums annually for one of Mr. Kamm's companies, United Fire and Casualty Company of Cedar Rapids. Mr. Kamm and his wife, Shirley, are stockholders in this company, and Mr. Kamm is now serving his fourth year as a member of the board of directors. Besides this company, Mr. Kamm represents and writes business for six other companies.

Over the past 25 years — which will be reached Aug. 1, 1973, The Reliable Agency has grown from a fledgling business into a fully matured business in the City of West Union, and is representative of one of the few businesses in which the one founder and operator is still actively engaged in the business.

#### FARM FLEET

Farm Fleet opened its doors for business in August of 1970 in the building which prior to then housed Bostrom's Super Valu. When Bostroms moved to a new location, Mickey Robinson, who owned the building, was instrumental in getting a Farm Fleet store to open here. The main Farm Fleet office in Manchester wanted to expand so opened the business here. The West Union store was the second in Fayette county — the other store is located in Oelwein.

Farm Fleet had its beginning when Leo Tyson of Dubuque opened a Tyson Farm and Home store in 1926 in Dubuque. From this business, then others grew, four of which are called Farm Fleet.

The first employees of Farm Fleet in West Union were Joe Schmidt of Greeley; Joyce Larson of Minneapolis, and Joe Dullard of Eldorado. Howard Whitcher began his duties as manager in October of 1970. Present employees are Pat Strong, Gerri Peterson and Harlan Bruvold.

#### WILBUR FORD SALES

Earl and Al Wilbur started as Ford dealers in August 1946, in the building on the corner of Plum and Vine, now the bus barn, Earl had been in the Navy and sold Fords previously and Al had been in the feed business.

They moved to their present location on West Elm street in 1949, and bought the building from A. W. Hausladen, sold Ford cars and trucks and Ford implements. In 1956, they received the Mercury

## Farm Fleet Supplies

## Reliable Agency

Balz Kamm, Jr.



franchise and in 1969 the Lincoln franchise.

Al and Earl were partners in building Lilac Motel in 1956, and in 1958 Al bought Earl's interest in the motel and Earl bought Al's interest in Ford business. Al is still working as parts manager at the dealership.



1905 Model F Ford. Wilbur Ford is in background.

In 1959, Earl bought property north of the garage, and a building 120x36 was constructed for parts and service repair work. The lot just north of the service building was purchased from John Nagel and in the fall of 1970 Wilbur Body Shop was constructed which was a building for auto body repair and painting. The Harry Rush property just west of the Ford dealership was purchased and the house remodeled to accommodate two apartments, with the rear of the lot being used for used car display.

Most employees have been with Wilbur Ford Sales for 10-25 years. In addition to Earl Wilbur, the owner, there are presently 22 employees. Al Wilbur is parts manager; Lyle Wilson, service manager, and Ruth Roach, accountant. Sales manager is Verl Timm, with Herb Schatz as salesman. Body shop foreman is Wayne Havenstrite and radiator shop repair is Donald Wiedow. Mechanics include Russ Granneman, John Yauslin, Roger Yauslin, Daniel McGuire and Gene Bemis. Body

shop repairmen include Kenneth Halverson, Lynn Hilgendorf, Ralph Lensing and Roger Havenstrite. Allen Holtzman is in charge of new and used car clean-up department, and working under him are Rolly Miller, Randy Wilbur and Roger Hellum. Janann Yauslin has been working as part-time assistant in the office.

In addition, Earl Wilbur has a farming operation. His daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Pleggenkuhle and sons, Matthew and Jason, moved onto the farm in March, and Ron is presently managing the farm operation with Laurence Ishman as his assistant.



LIVERY BARN burning at the site of present Wilbur Garage.

#### INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY

Electric service came to West Union in 1897, provided by a plant built and operated by Charles Freehauf. On July 22, Mayor Colby turned on the switch for street and domestic lighting on a "dusk to dawn" basis only. Billings were made "per light" and breakdowns of equipment were frequent.

In 1912, a franchise was granted to Miller and Sons of Clermont and electric service was provided around the clock. A line was built from Clermont to West Union, and soon various nearby towns were interconnected.

In 1925, Central States Power and Light Corporation purchased lines and equipment from Miller and Sons, and West Union became the location of the firm's general office. Office facilities, which had previously been located in the Bockenstedt Building, were moved to the present building at that time.

In 1944, Central States Power and Light Corporation was purchased by Interstate Power Company, an investor-owned utility. From a few men and a small amount of equipment at the turn of the Century,

## Interstate Power Company

## Wilbur Ford Sales, Inc.



Interstate Power Company in West Union serves an area of 34 communities and 1,500 farms, and has property amounting to over one million dollars in West Union alone. Interstate is the largest taxpayer in Fayette county, having paid \$204,000 in taxes for the year 1972.

Twenty-five employees reside in West Union, with P. A. Stucky serving as district manager. Interstate Power Company is dedicated to continuing the determined efforts of those before us to provide better electric services at a lower cost in the decades ahead.

#### DESEL'S FURNITURE STORE

It began in November, 1936, with the purchase of the Franklin Furniture Co. located in the I.O.O.F. Hall.

The store was bought by Louis Schutte of Postville and operated by George F. Dessel. In 1939, a partnership was formed between Louis Schutte, George Dessel and James Dessel. Seven years later Mr. Schutte sold his



DESEL'S HIGHWAY FURNITURE store, located on Highway 18 west.

interest to the two Dessel brothers. The store remained in the I.O.O.F. building until January of 1956 when the Dessel Furniture Co. moved into their new building located on Highway 18 west.

Since that time three additions have been added to the main store, an appliance building on the east, living room section on the west and a maple room to the south.

In 1972, a warehouse was added for appliance storage and truck storage. The store at present is operated with a staff of 12 people, George Dessel, James Dessel, Carl Stendel, Pat Woodson, Gay Caldwell, Roger Schmelzer, Lyle Alcorn, Jerry Cox, David House, Arlene Lauer and Mike Roach.

#### DICK'S CLEANING CENTER

The business that is now Dick's Cleaning Center is presently located at 103 South Walnut. For 40 years it was located at 116 South Vine, in a building that at times had housed the First National Bank, the post office, a hardware store, and Zeigler Hall — known as the Opera House. The Opera House was the site of many dances,



DICK'S CLEANING CENTER

plays and other social events in the early West Union days.

The old building fell into disuse, and when Jack Knarr bought the building in 1932, many old show bills and posters were still in the Opera House. Mr. Knarr remodeled the upstairs into apartments and opened the dry cleaning establishment on the ground floor. He operated the business until 1960, when it was sold to Mrs. Kathryn Schroyer and operated by her son, Gayland.

Dick Clark took over the business in 1961, adding shirt laundry and finishing equipment in 1963 and subsequently — the laundromat. In 1968, all new automatic dry cleaning and finishing equipment was added, making the old building one of the most up-to-date cleaning plants in northeast Iowa.

In April of 1971 the present building was purchased and remodeled and in July of 1972, the cleaning center was removed. All new washing machines and dryers were installed in the laundromat with a total of 22 washing machines and eight dryers.

#### THE MICHAEL INSURANCE AGENCY

Linus Putz opened an insurance office in West Union in West Union in 1947 after selling the Clover Farm Store that he had purchased in 1939 from Ole Olson.

The first office was located in the building now occupied by the Social Welfare Office but at the time was occupied by E. M. Phillips, an agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee. Soon after the office was moved to the second floor of the present Conner Rexall Drug Store and

**Dick's Cleaning Center**

**Dessel's Furniture Store**



in 1951 to an office building that was built next door to his dwelling on South Vine Street.

From 1958 to 1966 he shared office space with E. G. Scott, attorney, in the building now occupied by Bert B. Hanson Associates. In 1966, the office was again moved back to the South Vine location where he continued to operate the business until it was sold in July, 1968 to Roger T. Michael, who now has his office at ground level at his home.

#### JOHNSON & BIERMANN PLUMBING

The original C. A. Johnson and Son Plumbing and Heating started at the building on 129 South Vine in the year 1906 and has been a continuous business up until the present time.



PLUMBING SHOP of C. A. Johnson and Sons in 1914 located on the west side of South Vine street.

It retained this name until March 1956 when the son, Fritz, took in a new partner, Harlan Biermann. With the passing of the father and son, Fritz, it still maintains the name of Johnson and Bierman.

The firm which has served the community these many years has Harlan Biermann, Charles Broghammer, Glen Grimes and Don Biermann working in the establishment.

#### SCHATZ & SCHATZ

Schatz family has been connected with men's clothing here since the year of 1893, or 80 years. George P. Schatz, West Union clothing dealer, passed his 50th anniversary in the same lines of merchandise in the same city in 1943.

**Johnson & Biermann  
Plumbing & Heating**

**United Building Center**

George P. Schatz was clerk for W. B. Thomas from 1893 to 1902, a member of the firm of Evans & Schatz until 1924 and head of the firm of Schatz & Schatz from that date to 1955 when he died.

Mr. Schatz entered the Thomas Clothing Store when he was not yet 20. In 1894, Carl Evans came from Clermont as a clerk in the same store. Mr. Schatz soon was given a chance in the buying. The two clerks joined as partners in opening a new store in 1902, occupying a room where the First National Bank now is.

Then in 1921 they had to move as the building was being rebuilt for banking use. The store was in the P. G. Peterson building on Elm street until 1924, at which time it was moved to its present location in T. R. Stam's building and was given a new front.

Lorenz Schatz joined his father in 1924 after Mr. Evans moved to Des Moines. Then Allen Schatz came to the store when he graduated from high school in 1934.

In 1959, Lorenz Schatz moved to Lake Mills where he purchased a store of his own, and Allen Schatz took over management of the West Union store.

#### UNITED BUILDING CENTERS

UBC, Inc., now operates the lumber and building supply store in the same location where it was first started nearly 75 years ago. It was built and operated by B. F. Tamblyn and son who in 1922 sold to Midwest Lumber Co.



UBC Lumber Yard

The Fayette County Lumber Company operated under the management of Clyde Whitney, Russell

**Schatz and Schatz  
Clothing**



Whitney, Harold Upham, D. M. Bell, Don Eulberg and Cecil E. Snively, until in 1966 when the United Building Centers, Inc., of Winona, Minn., took over ownership.

Cecil Snively continues to manage the yard with the help of Mrs. Dorothy Loterbour, bookkeeper, and Niles Bochmller and Ray Amdahl as yardmen.

#### THE FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATION

The Federal Land Bank Association of West Union was formed in 1938 as a result of the consolidation of the Clermont and Oelwein Associations. The manager of the Clermont Association was John Erickson and E. R. O'Brien served as manager of the Oelwein Association. The first manager of the newly-formed West Union office was Robert Ponsar.

Four men served as directors of the F.L.B.A. of West Union. They were Harry Stolle, sr., L.T.N. Olson, Fred Stempfle and Elmer Grafenberg. The home office in West Union was the building that now houses the Lantz Barber Shop. In 1954 the F.L.B.A. moved its headquarters to its present location in the Farm Credit Building at 107 West Elm Street.

W. B. Sandager now serves the West Union Association as manager. Donna Halverson is assistant manager and office assistant and John Hamilton has joined the staff as fieldman.

The Board of Directors has increased to include seven men. Currently serving as directors are Cloy Schultz, jr., president; Arnold Bodensteiner, vice-president; Ambrose Buchheit, Merle Rochford, Wilbert Steinbronn, Gary Burrack and Keith James.

#### GARVIN HARDWARE AND LP GAS

Jack Garvin purchased his hardware business from N. J. Martin and took possession on Sept. 1, 1947. This business was located at 103 N. Vine Street. Garvin's first employee was Esten Landsgaard who remained with him from 1947-1951.

Former long-time employees include Don Whitney, 1948-1950; Ivan Enders, 1949-1957; Robert Heins, 1951-1966; Miss Ann Hutchens, 1955-1968; Floyd Schultz, 1955-1972.

Besides operating a general hardware store, Mr. Garvin owns and operates a bulk gas plant located one mile north of town on highway 150. This business was started in 1964 with the new plant being built in 1966. The volume of this business has increased to well over one million gallons and serves over 600 customers.

In 1967 Garvin purchased the True Value Hardware



BOB WILBUR, Jerry Connor and Clarence Miller in front of garvin's L.P. gas truck at the bulk plant north of West Union on highway 150.

business of Wilbur Tiffany which was located in the south half of the George Scott building at 109 N. Vine. Along with the merger of these businesses the Garvin Hardware was moved to the new location. Later Garvin purchased the Scott building which houses his business and the Connor Drug Store on the north.

Bob Wilbur, general manager of the business, joined Garvin in 1967. Employees of the two businesses and the years they were employed are Leta Ott, 1962; Walt Schrandt, 1963; Edna Blockhus, 1969, and Jerry Connor, 1973.

#### HEYING INDUSTRIES

1941 was an important year for Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Heying, founders of Heying Chick Co. That was the year they purchased 150 acres undeveloped prairie farm west of West Union, their first son, Terrance Jon, was born, and that same fall Larry signed a contract for five years apprenticeship to learn the chick sexing trade.

Five years later they started a route of their own servicing 18 hatcheries in northeast Iowa. In the fall, Larry sold Hy-Line chicks part time along with farming. He was chosen from the seven-county area as supervisor. A few years later, Larry and his wife, Jo, purchased the Hy-Line franchise for the seven county area.

Jo Heying then took over the chick sexing route and for the next twenty-some years traveled the route and through the years taught some assistants to help.

The past 30 years has seen a continuous growth. The entire family worked and built the business. All of them

## Federal Land Bank Association of West Union

## Garvin Hardware





#### HEYING INDUSTRIES

helped with the building and farming. Not one year has gone by since 1941 that they haven't built a building on one of the farms or in town. They built three homes, a large dairy barn, hog houses, many chicken houses and storage buildings — a feed mill on the original farm which grinds about three hundred tons of feed a week. A hatchery, an egg processing plant, and a food processing plant. Main contractor has been Howard Russler these past years. (The first years the family did most of the building themselves.) In 1964, Larry was elected to state senate. The darkest year in Heyings' history was 1968 when fire destroyed the hatchery and processing plant in June and that fall Larry lost re-election to the senate, but he hatchery was rebuilt that same summer and fall and the business kept on.

A new company, Heying Foods, Inc., was formed with son, Terry and wife, Sherrie, as major stock holders. Eggs were shipped to points east. He established merchandising and distribution stations in Chicago.

Two 800 foot long layer houses and a dried waste product plant was built in subsequent years and became known as Heying Enterprises, Inc., stock owned by family members.

Heying Chick Co. was then changed to Heying Firms, Inc., with Larry and Jo Heying as sole stockholders. Heying Firms is comprised of 600 acres of land, Pullet Growing Farms, Feed Mill Farm, and Hatchery. 1972, when Larry and Jo Heying went back to serve in legislature, another son, Chuck, took over management of the hatchery.

Hy-Line International, by this time, had invested some \$250,000 in developing egg products which were ultimately to be produced in West Union. Heying Foods

under Terry Heying built the physical plant to produce these products. In 1972 Hy-Line International contracted to turn over the food part of the business to the Heyings.

In 1972, a sales corporation was formed known as Sunnymore Foods, Inc., with Courtney Allen as its president, and adding ten stockholders with Terry, Larry and Jo Heying retaining control in that company.

Some 200 high school students have found part-time employment with Heyings through the years. They are proud of a number of key employees who started with them during their high school years and after college and service duty came back to this firm.

Key management positions are held by Bob Clauson, Don Martin, Chuck Heying, Delbert Potter, Al Kuennen, Leo Langreck, Laverne Myer, Irvin Stahr, Kelly Buchheit, Steve Owen, Ron Winter, John Gay, Millard Johanson, Rick Karban and Courtney Allen. Two main office personnel are Sandy McFarlane and Kathy Steinlage. Approaching ten years employment pins are Arlene Olson, Gert Stanbrough, Ron Blockhus and Harriet Olson, Evelyn Becking and Cliff Klinge.



TOWN AND COUNTRY CASHWAY lumber yard in 1973.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY CASHWAY

Lumber yards have been located where Town and Country Cashway is today since 1883. The first yard was owned by James Graham and Nathan Schenck. In addition to selling lumber they did their own carpenter work and sold coal. Mr. Graham died in 1907 and Mr. Schenck in the early 20's.

In 1907, W. J. Graham, whose widow, Ona Graham, still lives in West Union, began managing the business. When Mr. Graham retired in 1948, Mrs. Alta Carpenter (Schenck's daughter), her son, Walter, and Frank Kraft

# Town and Country Cashway

## Heying Firms, Inc.

H. L. Heying, Pres.  
Josephine Heying, Sec. & Treas.



became owners of the yard. The name of the business was Carpenter and Kraft.

Mr. Kraft started the ready-mix business in West Union in 1948 and operated this business in addition to the lumber yard until 1962 when he also began selling Butler steel bins and buildings.

In 1965, the Carpenters and Mr. Kraft sold the lumber business to John Juergens, Reynold Baumler, Earl Kloster and Bill Jahnke. The corporation shortly thereafter purchased John Juergens' share of stock. When Earl Kloster died, Everett Biermann purchased one-third interest in the yard. Since June of 1965, Bill Jahnke has been manager of the business now known as Town and Country Cashway.

Mrs. Edna Beermann has been bookkeeper for the yard since August of 1965.

The inventory now as compared to the 1965 inventory is about four times larger. Town and Country is one of the oldest lumber yards in the state of Iowa with a 90-year history.

#### COAST TO COAST STORE

It was in the year 1935 that Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Rupp came to West Union and opened a Coast to Coast store in the building which had been occupied by the Citizens State Bank. When the bank liquidated, the building had been bought by Lawrence Bockensted and S. M. Foote.



THE ABOVE DEER, frightened by cars and people leaped through the front window of the Coast to Coast store. It was captured in the store and taken back to the country.

In 1938, Mr. Rupp moved his store to its present location in the Heiserman building which was vacated by the Gamble Store. In 1942, the Coast to Coast Store of West Union made the news when a deer jumped from the street through the high front show window and landed in



Coast to Coast Store, Maurice Saboe, proprietor.

one of the aisles. The deer received just minor cuts on its forehead but played havoc in the store. Many local citizens helped capture the deer from the rear of the store, and hauled it back to the country and released it.

In March 1965, a complete new store front and a new Coast to Coast sign was added. The inside of the building was also remodeled and fluorescent lights were added.

Mr. Rupp retired in June of 1965 and sold the store to his clerk, Maurice Saboe, who had been with him since 1942.

In July, of 1971, the entire inside of the store was remodeled, new fixtures were installed. The new fixtures displayed the merchandise much better and allowed for more merchandise. The Gift and Houseware department was enlarged and also the wallpaper department. Mrs. Lyle Krueger, Elgin, has been employed by Mr. Saboe since 1968.

#### REYNER BURIAL VAULT CO.

The Reyner Burial Vault Factory originally housed the George Carlson Machine Shop. The building and contents were purchased from Mr. Carlson by the Reyners in 1938. Renovating of the first floor and basement and adding a second floor for living quarters, the building became a subsidiary of the Reyner Burial Vault Co. at Maquoketa, Iowa.

Franklin W. Reyner, sr., bought his father's interest in the West Union plant in 1945 and has operated it since

# Reyner Burial Vault

# Coast to Coast Store



that time with his son, Franklin Reyner, jr., as plant manager for the past 13 years.

The plant has an area of 9,400 square feet at present. An addition was made to the original building to the south in 1956 and in 1970 another steel building was added to the west.

The Reyners engage in the manufacturing and servicing of concrete burial vaults and also the distribution and servicing of fibreglas and steel vaults. They employ five full-time men and some part-time help and with six trucks cover a radius of about 60 miles of West Union.

#### BOSTROM'S SUPER VALU

Carl Bostrom came to West Union in 1943 from Waterloo where he had opened the first super market A&P in that city.

Mr. Bostrom purchased Meyerhoff's grocery on North Vine and after remodeling, opened it as Bostrom's



BOSTROM'S Super Valu store



CARL and Gary Bostrom.

Food Center. Seven years later Bostrom became affiliated with Jack & Jill, and the name was changed to Bostrom's Jack & Jill.

In 1964, Mr. Bostrom moved his business from the location on North Vine street into the building now occupied by Farm Fleet. They moved to the present location in April of 1969. The 12,500 square feet building consists of a restaurant, bakery, large general merchandise section, extensive frozen and dairy produce and grocery department.

Thirty nine employees take care of the needs of people in the community and surrounding areas. Since Mr. Bostrom's death in 1973, his son, Gary manages the business which is now known as Bostrom's Super Valu.

#### PEOPLES NATURAL GAS

Peoples Natural Gas, a division of Northern Natural Gas Company, was awarded a franchise to construct, maintain and operate a natural gas distribution system in order to distribute and sell natural gas for lighting, heating, industrial and other uses in the City of West Union on April 24, 1957.

Turn on ceremonies were held in July of 1961, with the Globe Hotel being the first customer lit up. By the



PEOPLES NATURAL GAS, 125 North Vine street.

end of 1961 there were 440 customers burning natural gas. From that beginning we have grown to 900 customers today.

West Union has been a District Office location since the beginning. During the period of time there have been three district managers. Beginning with Marvin Walters, continuing with Glen Billmeyer to the present manager, Chuck Worrell. The district presently consists of West Union, Hawkeye, Fayette and Arlington.

In 1968, West Union also became the location for the Northeast Iowa Division office. The Division Manager is Kerry Barnum and he is responsible for seven districts consisting of 23 towns.

# Bostrom's Super Valu



### TRAEGER'S JACK & JILL

The present location of Traeger's Jack und Jill Grocery Store was the original location of West Union's Hotel. It burned to the ground almost 100 years ago. The next business on this corner was a livery barn built by John Fritz. This was followed by Ralph Pixler with farm machinery.



TRAEGER'S JACK AND JILL — Bob and Ruth

In 1964, Bob Traeger started the Big Value Farm Store on this location. In 1965 this became the Big Valu Annex and Bob and Ruth Traeger moved their supermarket into the corner location.

The Jack and Jill franchise was bought in 1971. The hardware annex was closed out in 1973 and the space used to enlarge the sales area for the grocery store.

The present employees include Jeanette Saboe, Mary Lou Meyer, Bernice Davis, Kathy Schott, Vicki Miller, Sue Traeger, Karol Helgerson, George Mueller, Jim Eberhart, Don Traeger, Dennis Jellings, Duane Meyer, Mike Garcia and Kendall Gross.



TRAEGERS' BIG VALUE SUPER MART — Great Grandpa Traeger, 88;  
E. A. Traeger, 58; Robert Traeger, 36; Donald Traeger, nine.

### PHILIPS GARAGE

Philips Garage as known now was started in 1932 by W. L. (Bill) Philips in the Bopp building in the alley back of the Loan Office. He moved to the present location 207 S. Vine Street in 1936, and W. L. Philips sold the business to his son, L. T. Philips, on Jan. 1, 1960, who still owns and operates it.



BILL, TOM AND SPEED PHILIPS in their 1949 Centennial beards.

### LES CHENSVOLD DISPOSAL SERVICE

Sanitary Disposal started in West Union with an enclosed Garbage Packer in 1966. The first packer was a '49 Ford with a cable lift, which was owned by Les Chensvold and Charlie Weideman. In 1966, Les Chensvold was by himself and in 1968 he bought a 1963 Ford, and at that time was still hauling to the city dump. On April 1, 1971, with his new 1971 Ford, he with everybody in the county started hauling to the new landfill by the Fayette County Home.



LES CHENSVOLD and Charlie Weidemann with their trucks.

# Traeger's Jack and Jill





JOHN O. FALB

#### JOHN FALB COMPANY

West Union Motor Company was organized in 1950 as a corporation. The original owners of this corporation were John Falb, jr., Postville; Leroy Gass, West Union; John Falb, sr., Elgin; Walter Falb, George Falb, Herb Falb, all of Elgin. Leroy Gass was service manager and Herbert Falb was sales manager of this new company, which completed the original building in 1951 which included showroom, parts and service facilities.

These owners operated the business until 1958 when John Falb, jr., Postville, purchased the interests of Walt George and John Falb, sr., Elgin, and continued to operate the business with Roy Gass and Herb Falb as managers as well as owners. H. W. Falb retired from active participation in 1966, and his interests were purchased by John O. Falb, jr., expanded the business until in 1970 a 5,000 foot addition to the service department was added to the original building showroom. Office space and much larger parts facility were also included in the improvement and the name of the corporation was changed at that time to John Falb Company. The officers of the corporation are the same, Roy, John and John O., and although the corporation name has been changed, the company feels the "Service" is its most important product.



Brown's Department Store

#### BROWN'S DEPARTMENT STORE

Brown's Department Store originally started in business in February, 1952. Partners in the business were Merle Brown and Oliver Fay and the business was called Brown and Fay. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Fay had previously been employed at Black's in Waterloo. At that time, Brown and Fay was only a men and boy's clothing and shoe store. The original store was located on the S.E. corner of Vine and Elm — formerly occupied by Diamond Brothers grocery store.

In 1953, Mr. Brown bought out Mr. Fay's interest. The adjoining building, formerly occupied by Clover Farm Store and operated by Bo and Iva Cline, was acquired in 1958. Extensive remodeling and connecting archways were completed. At this time, ladies, girls and infants' clothing and shoe departments were added to the store.

In 1970, George Schatz, owner of the building, completely remodeled the outside of the building making it one of the most attractive downtown buildings.

Further expansion was needed and the adjoining building to the east was purchased by Mr. Brown. Another archway was cut to connect the entire store and all was re-decorated and carpeted at that time.

Present employees are Mrs. Don (Judy) Schaufenbuel, Mrs. Jim (Pat) Granger, Mrs. Toby (Lorine) Johnson, Terry Weidemann, Mrs. Mike (Sharon) Schroyer, Claudia Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Merle Brown.

# Brown's Dept. Store

# John Falb Company





R. O. Woodard



George Woodard, sr.



George Woodard, jr.

#### WOODARD REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE

Woodard is today a prominent name in the business world just as it was back in 1881 when R. O. Woodard entered the offices of Zeigler and Weed, abstractors.

R. O. Woodard was born in 1860 in Richmond, Va., to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Woodard. Henry Woodard was a wholesale grocer at the time of the Civil War, but his strong and outspoken Union sentiments were not relished in a hotbed of secession, and his property was confiscated. He fled to Maine and stayed there until his wife managed to run the blockade, and they went to Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Henry Woodard, who maiden name was Eugenia Gaszynski, was of noble Polish Ancestry. Accordingly, R. O. Woodard was actually an earl.

R. O. Woodard, one of five children, came to West Union at the age of 19 to live with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodard, who operated a lumber yard here. He also worked with Dr. Robinson, who later helped him obtain a job at the Mental Health Institute in Independence.

In 1881, R. O. Woodard entered the firm of Ziegler and Wedd, abstractors. When Weed died, he became Zeigler's partner, and took over the business when Zeigler died in 1909.

R. O. Woodard married Mary Carver Barrell of Lynn, Mass., in 1886. Three children were born to them, one dying in 1888 and one in 1891. The only surviving child is George Barrell, who joined his father in the insurance business in West Union in 1921.

One of the practices in the early days of Woodard Real Estate and Insurance was that of borrowing money from wealthy people in the Eastern U.S. and loaning it to area farmers. Demand for this service declined, however, as Farmers Home Administration and Federal

Bank Association came into existence. Then George B. Woodard, sr., turned to just selling general insurance.

George Woodard, jr., joined the firm in 1951. At this time, the selling of real estate was added. Mr. Woodard sold the business on contract to his son in 1963.

Employees in the Woodard office are secretaries, Arlene Campbell and Delores Chensvold. (Mrs. Genevra Lane was a secretary for 38 years, retiring in 1964.) Salesmen for Woodard Real Estate are Dave Cagwin and Mike Schram.

#### E. R. BALLARD

E. R. (Ernest) Ballard, photographer, recorded the history of West Union on film for over fifty years before his retirement in 1950. Ballard came to West Union in 1905 and opened his studio in the north part of the upstairs of the Bank building. Every major event of the year, celebrations, fires, athletic teams and school events were recorded by his camera for posterity. His artistic nature appreciated the beauty of northeast Iowa's scenery and he captured many favorite spots on film.

The community benefited from his involvement in organizations such as Masons, Lions, Boy Scouts and the Bethel Presbyterian church. Also, he served for fifteen years as custodian of Echo Valley State Park, lake and dam, after their development by the C.C.C. boys during the 1930's.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard lived at 246 S. Walnut St. until his death on Feb. 17, 1955. After the death of Mrs. E. R. (Ethel) Ballard, their children, Allen, of West Union, and Irene, (Mrs. A. E. Anderson), Lakota, assumed possession of many of E. R.'s photos and negatives. They have loaned many of these to the editors of this publication to share with readers and add to their understanding and enjoyment of the history of West Union.

# Woodard-Woodard Ins. & Real Estate



# POTPOURRI

By Steve Landas

A senior at North High and son of Mrs. Hazel Landas, West Union, submitted the following piece of work to the Reader's Digest essay contest. His essay was chosen as one of the winners and as a result he will be one of ten in the nation to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of his choice.



E. R. BALLARD — long-time West Union photographer

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## What West Union Means to Me

By Lynn Stoffel, North High Senior

The other day someone mentioned that they would like to live in West Union when they were ready to settle down. That simple comment started me thinking that West Union must really mean a lot to that person. I then wanted to know just what this town meant to me.

At first I thought about the school, my home, my job, the bowling alley; but then I knew that list could go on forever. I realized that West Union meant much more to me than a few buildings. To me it means being able to walk farther than three feet outside my door without the fear of being robbed or attacked. I like going to ball games and seeing a few school officials instead of a whole police squad. It really is a comforting thought to know I can drink my milk at lunch knowing somebody hasn't slipped "something" into it. Oh, I know someday these things may be here in full force as they are in New York or Chicago, but they are not here yet. It is like West Union is still fighting that kind of change.

Then I asked myself, 'Who is fighting?' and with that question I found the answer to what makes West Union so special to me. It is the people! They still know how to say "good morning" and "hello". Saying Merry Christmas hasn't gone out of style yet and when they ask "How are you?" they really want to know. The people of this city have set up one of the best educational systems in the state. They have invited in new businesses. They built a pool and added a new sidewalk for the safety of pedestrians. They care!

The people of West Union have built a community of which this generation can be proud. They have built a foundation out of their dreams and I feel privileged to add to it with my hopes in the future.

## What America Means to Me

American has been described in many ways. For each American it holds a special, personal meaning. It cannot be thought of as only a land, only a people or only a government. America's complexity gives it an intangible meaning: something unique— yet not quite definable.

I view America as an attitude: a belief set down on the foundation of the sacrifices of our forefathers. It is a sense of purpose, an incentive to strive for the highest goals. It is rugged competition, but competition with charity. America is the belief that every man is created with the same God-given rights. It is where a man has the right to live his life according to his own personal values and not those of a tyrant.

Dissension is also an important part of America. The conflicts that arise in our society are born of the personal differences among men and are fostered by the concern they share for the well-being of our nation. Where all think alike, there is tyranny. Disagreement and discussion are signs that we still maintain our freedoms

America has been forged by common men in an unselfish concern for the rights and personal liberties of the people of our land. It is a government — and although imperfect, it compensates for its own short-comings. It is impartial justice, concerned with actions, not status: a true form of justice in which all men are viewed in the same light. Every person has the chance for greatness, but greatness must be earned; it is never guaranteed; it is obtained only through hard work and sacrifice.

America is based on the convictions of its people. These beliefs have grown from the seeds planted by its early colonizers who came in search of precious freedom. These ideals were preserved by the minutemen, by the early patriots, and by all who have served in keeping alive our American way of life since

In America we are born with the legacy of certain rights and liberties, born with this heritage because our ancestors sought to leave behind them a nation in which their children would have the advantages which cannot exist in a land of tyranny. As modern-day patriots we have the charge of maintaining these high standards, for ourselves and posterity. Freedom is not an easy thing; our liberties must be earned and protected. The future of our nation, this land, this people — this America, is not a gift, it is an achievement: it is exactly what we do or fail to do, it is our concern for the rights and freedoms of every individual of this world, for if we hold the liberties of other people to be of less value than our own, we reduce liberty to the point of insignificance. We have this concern in America: liberty and freedom have deep meaning here.

My America is not just a flag, nor is it only a group of patriots, it is not just a people, and cannot be adequately summarized by its documents: my America is the set of beliefs for which the flag stands, the cause for which the



patriots fought, the ideals behind the great documents of our nation, and it is most importantly the respect and value we as Americans place on freedom, liberty and justice.

MARY SUELLEN ESTEY one of West Union's native daughters, the daughter of Mary K. Estey and the late Robert F. Estey, has made her mark in the world of the theater.

A 1963 graduate of North High, Miss Estey went on to Stephen's Women's College at Columbia, Mo., earning an Associate of Arts degree and where she was to appear in a number of theatrical productions, including those at the Stephens Playhouse at Okoboji during summer sessions. In 1966 she was runner-up for Miss Iowa in the Miss America competition. She was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Speech from Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill. in 1967.

Following her first professional appearance as Guenevere in "Camelot" at the Wagon Wheel Playhouse, Warsau, Indiana, she was to appear in a number of plays across America.

Her credits include "Sweet Charity" with Chita Revere at the Shubert Theater in Chicago; "Mame" with Angela Lansbury at the Los Angeles Music Center; "Cabaret" at the Shubert; and "Whispers on the Wind" at the Olney Theater in Washington D. C.

Also "Two by Two" with Milton Berle in summer stock; "June Moon" off Broadway, "Buy Bonds Buster" off Broadway and "1776" with Howard DeSilva in summer stock.

Her three most recent credits are "Comedy" off Broadway; "Oklahoma" with John Davidson at Dallas Music Hall and "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" with Zero Mostel on the Regional Theater Circuit.

Miss Estey won the "Best Actress Award" from the National Evangelical Film Foundation for her work in a religious film "Phony", and lends her talents to various industrial and commercial productions.

JANET FRANK, daughter of Mr. K. C. (Collin) Frank and the late Mrs. Dorothy Frank, has made a professional career of music.

After graduation from West Union Community High school she furthered her education at Illinois Wesleyan University and received her Bachelor of Music Education in 1955 and a Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary in New York City 1957. Janet also studied piano with the Diller-Quaile Music School, NYC and language at the Goethe House and French Institute, Alliance France and New York City.

As a lyric soprano, Janet has appeared with various orchestras and has done solo work in the New York area. Her singing experience includes "Camelot" in the Broadway company, Robert Shaw Corale tours of the United States, "My Fair Lady" National Company, including a State Department Tour of the Soviet Union. She also has to her credit extensive choral work, (live, recording, T.V.) with Leonard Bernstein, Robert Shaw and others.

From 1966-1970 Miss Frank was Recording Editor with the Music Department of Holt, Rinehart and Winston in New York City. In 1969, Janet was conductor and contractor of the children's Choir on "Sesame Street" NET-TV. Presently she is Producer of Recordings for the McMillan Publishing Company for their music

series, "The Spectrum of Music," and hse teaches private voice lessons.

KENNETH W. ILIFF, one of West Union's native sons, has received national acclaim in conjunction with his career in Aerospace Engineering. Kenneth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Iliff, received his early education in the West Union schools. This was a fete accomplished at times via telephone hook-up, due to the fact he was stricken with polio in 1950 and has been confined to a wheel chair ever since that time. He graduated with his class in 1958.

Mr. Iliff earned his B.S. in Mathematics from Iowa State University in 1962 along with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California, and his Ph. D. in Mathematical Theory of Systems from U.C.L.A. in 1973. His doctoral dissertation, "Identification and Stochastic Control with Application to Flight Control in Turbulence" is published by the UCLA Press. He is also author or co-author of twelve other published papers.

Mr. Iliff and his wife reside in Lancaster, California and Kenneth has been employed by N.A.S.A. at the Flight Research Center, Edward's, California, since 1962. His present position is that of Theoretical Analyst. In March of 1973, Mr. Iliff was chosen as the Outstanding Handicapped Employee of the Year by N.A.S.A.

In October, 1973, Iliff was named a recipient of the H.J.E. Reid Award for his significant contribution to the N.A.S.A. research program.

Mr. Iliff will lecture at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Advanced Study Institute at Darlington, England, in August of 1974.

#### 4-H CLUBS

4-H club work is a part of the Extension Education branch of Iowa State University, the Land Grant College in Iowa. Cooperating on the West Union level were the Union Sunny Sals Girls 4-H Club. Later this club changed its name to the Union Busy Beaverettes. This was primarily a rural club in its early years. In 1958 there were four girls enrolled in the Union Busy Beaverettes. Mrs. K. R. Ritchie was a leader along with Mrs. Clifford Bishop. Members listed were Karen Ritchie, Nancy Brockway, Janelyn Granger, Olivia Hansen and Julie Ukena. Mrs. Wayne Granger became a leader of the club in 1960 along with Mrs. Oscar Reeder, and Mrs. Harry Grimes, jr. Jane Westerfield was added to the club rolls in 1960.

Enrollment of the town girls increased considerably in 1961. This growth continued, and by 1963 the club became too large for efficient operation. As a result a second club was organized in 1968. This club was known as Knob Prairie Girls 4-H club. Fifteen girls completed projects at the end of the first year. Their leaders during this first year were Mrs. Steve Story, Mrs. Harold Blessing and Mrs. Newell McIntyre. Mrs. Ray Krambeer is the present leader and Mrs. Cordell Westphal is assistant.

The original Union Busy Beaverettes are led by Mrs. Ray Forret and Mrs. Lloyd Keller.

Members of the two clubs have exhibited their projects at local club shows each year as well as at the Fayette County and State fairs.

The Union Busy Beavers is the boys' 4-H club of rural Union Township.





H. W. KING, West Union motorcycle dealer in 1914.

### MOTORCYCLES

Motorcycles have become a popular mode of transportation during recent years, however in 1914 West Union boasted of a motorcycle dealership. H. W. King was the exclusive agency for Harley-Davidson motorcycles for Fayette, Clayton, and Winneshiek counties. King came to West Union in March of 1911 and opened a garage in the Blunt building, east of Hotel Commercial and operated a motorcycle agency, had a franchise for the Regal automobile and operated a repair shop and livery business.

The year 1912 brought a big demand for motorcycles which far outnumbered the supply Mr. King could secure from the factory. He was able to receive six during the year. In 1914 King sold over forty machines. He also sold a side car which was popular with his motorcycle customers. Mr. King operated his business on a twenty-four hour basis to keep his customers' purchases repaired and in good working order.

King accomplished quite a fete in 1914 when he rode his Harley Davidson cycle 300 miles from Milwaukee to West Union experiencing no trouble.

### THE AUTOMOBILE COMES INTO ITS OWN IN FAYETTE COUNTY

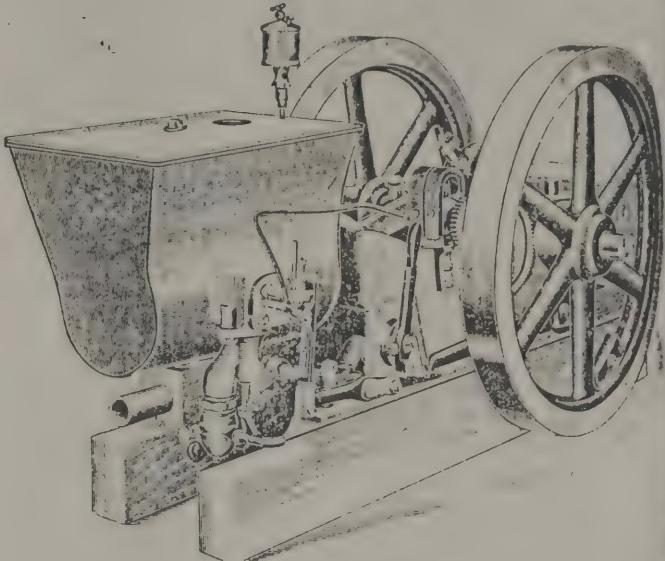
In highway construction West Union was like the hub on a wheel with main Pike roads running in the various directions from town. Farmers along the area would grade the area and mark the Pike road with painted posts to aid tourists. The board of supervisors employed prisoners from the jail to do work on the roads between West Union and Hawkeye and West Union and Fayette.

The auto replaced the horse for general use around 1912 and 1913. Auto owners of the county formed an organization which met for annual picnics and reunions.

Fayette county farmers were enjoying prosperity during this time and the new automobiles were popular attractions. An Argo-Gazette reporter estimated that over 500 autos were in town for the Fayette County Fair in 1913. The autos at the fair outnumbered the horse-drawn carriages two to one.

Perhaps because of this county-wide interest in automobiles the road building was a priority. In 1914, Fayette county was recognized state-wide as a model for

having brought a record number of miles to grade during the previous two years. A "Des Moines Register and Leader" of Sept. 20, 1913, praises Fayette County for hiring skilled engineers and following specifications of the Iowa Highway Commission in Ames to bring a record number of its Pike roads to proper grade. During 1913 sixty-five permanent concrete bridges were constructed in the county, along with grading on the North Iowa Pike, now Highway 18.



CRABB GAS ENGINE manufactured in West Union in the early part of the century.

### CRABB GASOLINE ENGINES ARE MANUFACTURED IN WEST UNION

I. E. Crabb was the inventor of a gasoline engine pictured below which was manufactured in West Union in the early part of the twentieth century. Crabb was born in Maquoketa, and moved his family to West Union around 1908. The Crabb gas engine received praise from the farmers of the area who utilized it.

A catalog lists some of its selling points. They are as follows: (1) frost proof - can be frozen without injury, (2) variable power from 1½ to 5 horse power (3) variable speed — 150 to 500 revolutions per minute, accomplished by turning a thumb screw, (4) runs on kerosene without clogging with carbon (5) one of the simplest engines made — seldom gets out of order.

+Information attained from a 1914 edition of the Argo-Gazette.

### TOWN TEAM BASEBALL TEAM

For a time during the summers, West Union boasted a town baseball team. Opposing teams were played from nearby towns, Festina, St. Lucas, New Hampton and R. Atkinson, all proving to be able competition for the fine West Union squads.

In 1918, the town baseball team emerged from the double elimination tournaments as State champs. The players to accomplish this feat were Keith Crider, Ken Crider, Jim Cline, Jim Hanson, Tom Barker, Louie Ott, Mike Berns, Roger Frederick, Sal Padilla, Allan Klinge, Jim Schaer, Harold Schoonover, Roger Howrd, Tom Heyer, Jim Schneberger, Jerry McCauley, LeRoy Schneberger, Norb Einck and Dale Buenzow, manager.



LORENEZO DUTTON'S LETTER to his grandson, December, 1902.

West Union... Iowa Dec 23 1902

Mr Gordon Hackett

Dear sir.

Please find enclose & wish you  
a merry Christmas & Happy  
New Year

I hope that you will  
buy something with it that will  
be of some use to you

that is the wish of your  
Grand Father

Lorenezo Dutton

Dec. 23, 1902  
West Union, Iowa

Mr. Gordon Hackett

Dear Sir:

Please find enclose. I wish you a merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year:

I hope that you will buy something with it that will be  
of some use to you.

That is the wish of your Grand Father.

Lorenezo Dutton

Dutton was one of the first white settlers around West  
Union.)



OLD ZIEGLER CARRIAGE HOUSE on Adams Street. One of the oldest remaining structures in West Union. Ziegler Mansion was constructed during 1879-1880 at a cost of \$50,000. During the construction, the Zieglers spent time in Europe. The home is presently used for apartments, however many of the imported fireplaces and carved mantles still are in

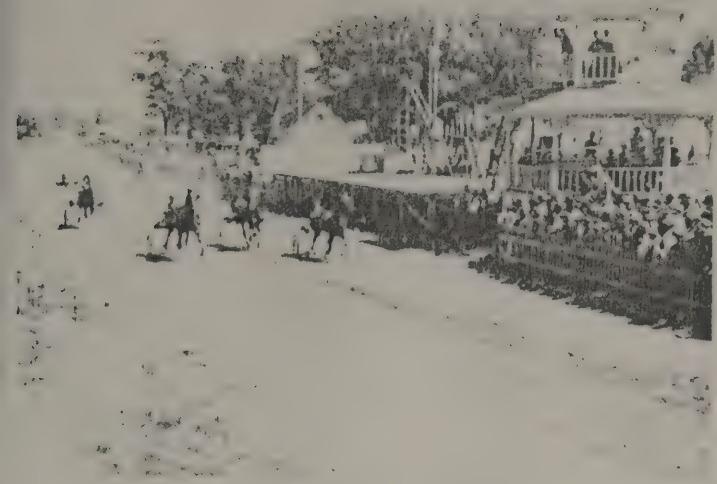


MRS. RILEY GRIMES and her "Mazie" dolls made from corn husk.



BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW in West Union around 1910.





SULKY racing at the fairgrounds.



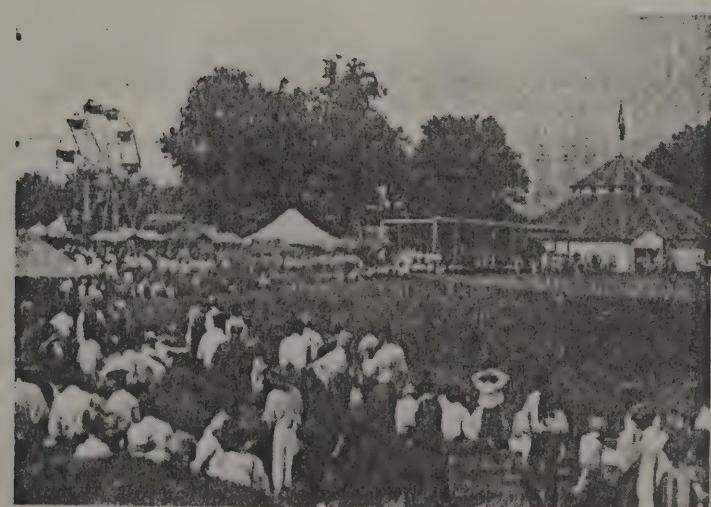
VINE STREET looking north around the 1920's.



COL. SMITH'S curiositvhall being loaded on a railroad flat bed around 1915.



BURNHAM FUNERAL HOME and the Rex Hotel in the twenties.



BASEBALL GAME at the fairgrounds during an early Fayette County Fair.



BALANCING BALL ACT at the Fayette County Fair. Performers walked the ball up the spiral track.



# 125 Jubilee Committee Persons

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE: Jim Boelman, Chairman

Jon Antes, Vice-Chairman

Rachel Saboe, Secretary

Richard Vagts, Treasurer

Stan Halverson, Special Day Chairman

Bob Holm, Special Day Chairman

Chuck Clayton, Special Day Chairman

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Finance Committee — Robert Ralston, Chairman

Don Mueller

Don Stoessel

Activities: A. Sale of Sponsorships

B. Coordinate sale of souvenirs and historical books

C. Insurance

2. Publicity, Promotion, Program — Chuck Worrell, Chairman

Ilex Heyer

Jerry Blue

Jim Updegraff

Activities: A. Press releases - radio, TV, Newspaper

B. Speakers -program

C. Distributive advertising

D. Visitations

E. Hospitality

F. Signs - Bumper stickers

G. Appearance on Community Quiz

H. Guides - Ambassadors

3. Parade — Bill Stephens, Chairman

Steve Story, Dignitaries and Special Units

Lona Ladwig and Kathryn Weideman - Floats

Bob Swale - Shrine Units

Ed Timm and Everett Lockhart - Bands

Joe Rademaker - Saddle Clubs

Ken Anderson - Antique Cars

Chuck Clayton - Military Units & American Legion

Chuck Broghammer - Police cars and Fire trucks

Karian Broghammer - Red Cross Units

Don Grimes & Gary Bemis - Parade Formation

Street management & Clean-up

4. Carnival & Concession Stands — Bob

Wilbur, Chairman

5. Spectacle Division — John Hamilton, Chairman

Tom Canfield, Director, Musical

Kevin Jacobson - Sound and lighting

Farm Bureau - Tractor Pull

Fire Department - Water Fights

Costumes

Fireworks

6. Religious Activities — Steve Story,

Acting Chairman

Mrs. Kenneth Lohr

Mrs. Ray Forret

Mrs. Harold Sutter

Mrs. Henry Peterson

Mrs. Richard Meyer

Mrs. Everett Vagts

Jim Kaufman

Mrs. Vern Darnell

Mrs. M. J. Molumbey

Mrs. Franklin Reyner, Jr.

7. Youth Activities — Bob Johnson, Chairman

Jim Guyer, Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament

Joan Jensen & Abe Suazo - Movies and Youth Activities

Gay Bowden - Invitational Girls' Softball Tournament

Veryl Timm - Soap Box Derby

Buck Whitver - Golf Tournament

Larry Conrad & Keith Markow - Junior Olympic Track Meet

Tom Bennett - Archery Tournament

Dennis Eckhoff - Horseshoe Tournament

8. Senior Citizens Activities — Everett Bierman, Chairman

Doran Meyer

Laura Kilcher, Pres. of Senior Citizens

Edna Beermann

Sue Bovis

Dotty Biermann

9. Historical Book — Herman Doscher, Fran Bowden, Co-editors

Lois Meyer

Roger Michaels

Laura Holman

Marlene Bicknese

Del Beermann

Catherine Jones

10. Men & Women Participation — Bruce Crandall, Dave Cagwin, Co-Chairmen

Vern Alcorn - Brothers of the Brush

Phil Stucky - Men's Hats and Ties

Kerry Barnum - Kangeroo Court

Ruth Hanson - Promenades and Caravans

Marlene Holm - Ladies' Sunbonnets & Dresses

Darlene Jellings - Square Dancing

11. Retail Committee — John Havener, Ken Robinson — Co-chairmen

Mrs. Curits Chensvold

Arlene Campbell

Eileen Foote

Mr. and Mrs. Art Rupp

Darrell Martin

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Loftus

Leon Layton

Dorothy Antes

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Baird

Ella Campbell



# **Activities**

## **Thursday, July 4th**

Slow Pitch Softball Tournament 9:30-7:30

### **Evening Activities**

- Beard Contest
- Fashion Parade
- Tap Dance Group
- Fireworks

## **Friday, July 5th**

Invitational Softball Tournament — 1:30, 3:00, 6:00, 7:30

- Jr. Olympics 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- Archery 1:00 - 3:00
- Horse Shoe 3:00 - 5:30
- Swim Meet 5:00

### **Evening Activities**

- Musical
- Movies - Kids' Activities
- Stock Car Races

## **Saturday, July 6th**

- Parade 10:00 a.m.
- Soap Box Derby p.m.
- Water Fights, p.m.

### **Evening Activities**

- Musical
- Movies - Kids' Activities
- Teen Dance

## **Sunday, July 7th**

- Joint Church Service - 9:30 a.m.
- Golf Tournament - 12:30

The above schedule may be subject to minor changes due to the early deadline for the printing of this book. Also additional activities are in the planning stage at this time but have not been finalized as to time and date. Please consult The Union for more accurate time and dates for all Jubilee activities and events.



# Appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors of this 125th Jubilee Booklet whose names appear at the bottom of the pages for their generous financial support. The response was terrific and again shows the willingness of the community to work together on a community interest project. Without this support this celebration would not have been possible.

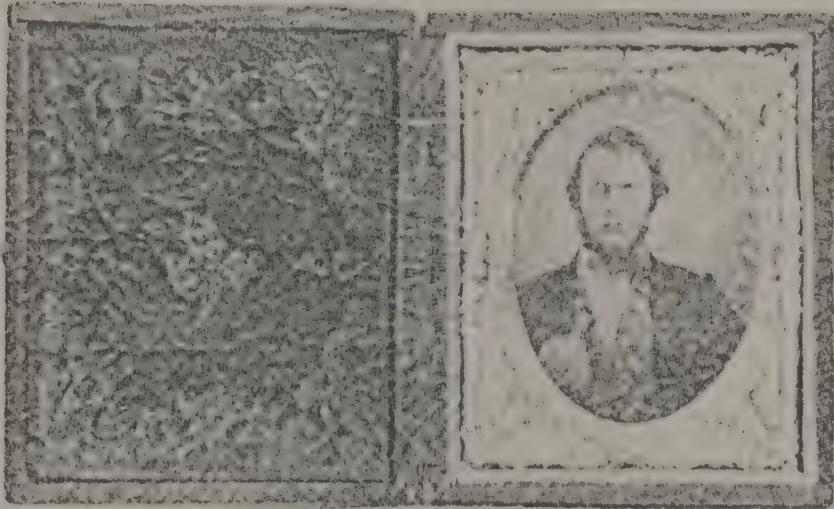
Also, we would like to express our appreciation to all the people who donated many hours of work to the project. Again without this support the celebration would not have been possible.

Jim Boelman, Chairman  
125th Jubilee Committee

# Chronology

- 1848 — Indians removed from the Winnebago Reserve to Minnesota. Land around West Union was made public domain. First white settlers arrive.
- 1849 — July 4, 1849, William Wells and Jacob LeBrand laid out a town.
- 1850 — Fayette County organized.
- 1851 — Election was held and West Union determined to be the county seat.
- 1851 — Dr. J. H. Stafford — first doctor to establish a practice in West Union.
- 1853 — October 12 — establishment of first newspaper in West Union and Fayette County. Fayette County Pioneer, John Gharkey and Charles McDowell, editors.
- 1854 — Work commenced on the first court house — completed the following year.
- 1855 — First church building erected in West Union.
- 1856 — Town lots sold for \$45.00 each by William Wells.
- 1861 — May 29 — departure from court house square of first Fayette County Company called to the front in the Civil War.
- 1865 — Banquet for Civil War veterans held at the fairgrounds.
- 1866 — West Union incorporated and established as a municipal government.
- 1872 — First court house destroyed by fire.
- 1873 — Sept. 7 — first train came to West Union
- 1874 — Contracts let on second court house.
- 1878 — Telephone introduced to West Union.
- 1881 — Old brick school house built.
- 1894, 1895, 1905 — Additions added to second court house
- 1897 — Electric light plant built for city.
- 1919 — Community hospital established by city of West Union.
- 1922 — Second court house burned — Construction began on present court house shortly thereafter.
- 1930 — High school building built
- 1949 — Construction began on Palmer Memorial hospital.
- 1949 — West Union celebrates its centennial, July 3 and 4.
- 1953 — Reorganization of school district with Alpha, Eldorado, Hawley and West Union.
- 1970 — New high school constructed.
- 1974 — July 4, 125th Jubilee celebration.





WILLIAM WELLS, Founder of West Union.



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